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Open Space and Recreation Plan 2006-2007

Town of Salisbury

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Most Recent Update-07/2007

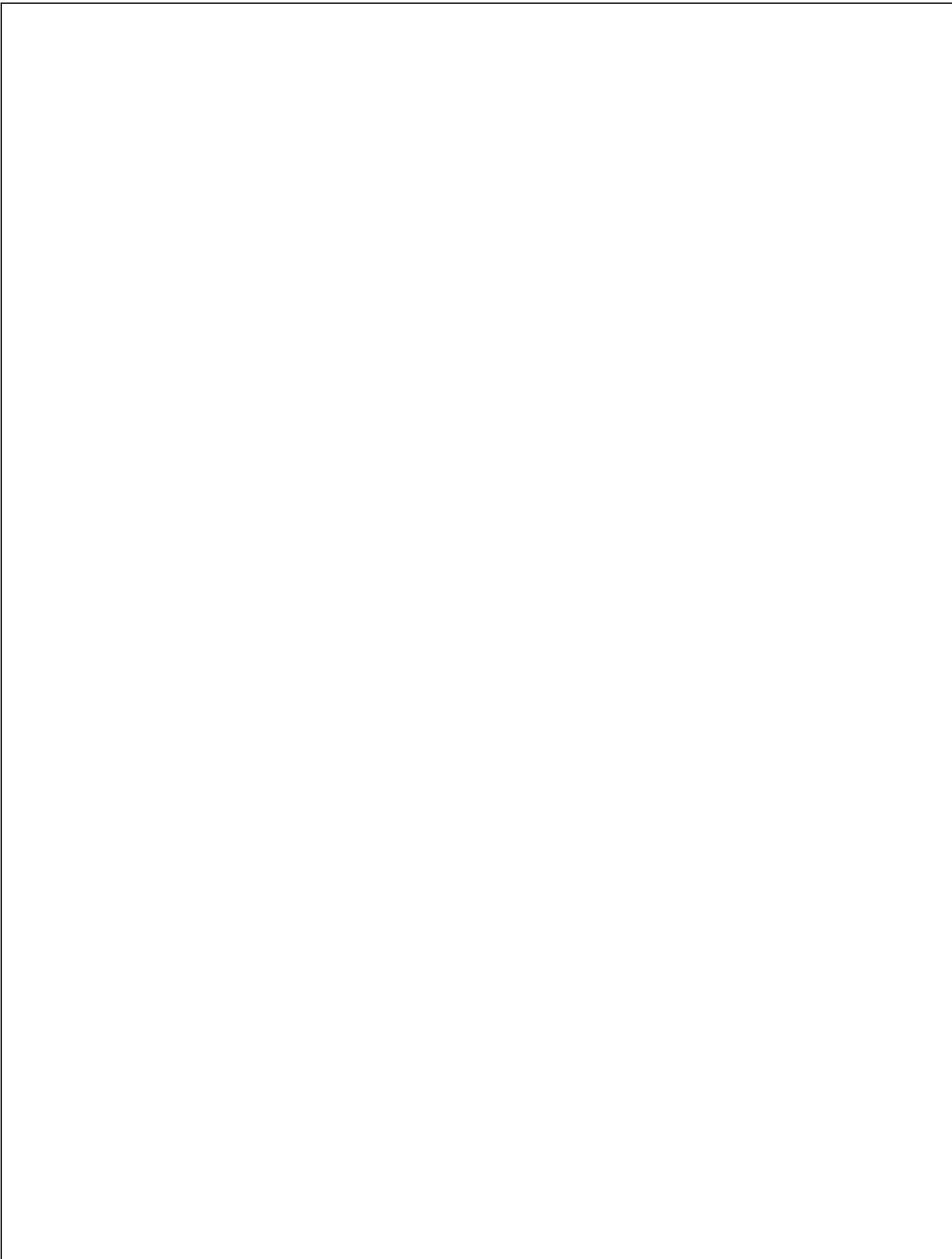


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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

The 2006 Salisbury Open Space and Recreation Plan is a working document which builds on the 1986 Open Space Plan and the Draft Open Space Plan of 2000. The Plan is modeled on the Open Space and Recreation Plan requirements, based on the State's guide of the Open Space Planner's Workbook, last revised February 2001, and includes the following details:

- An overview of Salisbury from a regional perspective
- A history of the community and population and growth statistics
- A description of Salisbury's natural resources
- An inventory of conservation and recreation land
- Conservation and recreation goals and objectives
- An analysis of recreation, management and resource protection needs
- A five-year action plan to accomplish the goals

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

The Salisbury Open Space and Recreation Plan was created to provide an organizational model and rational framework within which residents of Salisbury may determine the future of the natural beauty of their Town. This will be done by balancing the pressures of commercial, industrial and residential development with the demands for recreation and open space preservation. The Selectmen of the Town of Salisbury realized the need for an Open Space Plan and made it a priority. The last Open Space Plan was created in 1986 and much has changed since that time.

This Plan provides a comprehensive inventory of the Town's open space and natural resources and recreation areas and also includes a five-year action plan that can help the Town preserve these resources for future generations. This Plan represents an important part of the planning process in Salisbury. Having an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan also makes the Town eligible for state-funded conservation programs.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Committee

The Salisbury Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared by the Salisbury Office of Planning and Development along with the Open Space Plan Committee. Many thanks are owed to the Town Departments, the Assessors' Office, the Department of Public Works, the Building Inspector's Office, and the Parks and Recreation Committee. The members of the 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, who represent different boards in Town as well as concerned citizens, are: Don Beaulieu, Selectman; Larry Cuddire, Chair of the Planning Board; Richard A. Whaley, Chair of the Conservation Commission; Ray Pike, Harbormaster; Reggie Santos, Assistant Harbormaster; and George McKenna.

Thanks are also owed to the Open Space Committee of 2000. An Open Space Plan was commenced, but not finished. The members who were a part of that committee are: Rachel

Twomey, Stephen Dudley, Marge Quartochi, John Quartochi, Jack Christian, Amy Rock and George McKenna.

Meetings

Four meetings were held in the Hilton Senior Center and all were open to the public, with agendas being posted in Town Hall, the Senior Center, and Library, as well as online.

Open Space and Recreation Survey

A survey was created and sent to a random sample of heads of household, with 1 out of every 5 of the 3,000 heads of household in Salisbury receiving a survey (600). A newspaper article in the *Newburyport Daily News* brought attention to the survey and encouraged those who received a survey to complete and return it. Surveys were also available at the Spring Annual Town Meeting, in the Planning Office and online for those who were not part of the random sample but wished their views to be heard. The responses provided much information to be used in this plan, although the response rate was less than desirable. Of the 600 surveys sent out, 64 surveys were returned, a response rate of 11%.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

“The Town of Salisbury is located about 40 miles north of Boston on what is commonly known as the “North Shore”. It is bordered on the north by New Hampshire, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the Merrimack River and the City of Newburyport and on the west by the Town of Amesbury. Renowned for its beaches, boating, fishing, and summer entertainment, Salisbury is home to 7,800 year round residents, many of whom work in local shops and businesses” (<http://www.salisburyma.gov/index.html>).

The Town of Salisbury is located within the Merrimack River Watershed, which “occupies 5,010 square miles and is comprised of 203 communities ranging from rural towns such as Woodstock, NH and Newbury, MA to the industrial cities of Manchester, NH, Lowell, and Lawrence, MA” (<http://www.merrimack.org/aboutwatershed/geography.htm>).

Salisbury shares several important natural and recreational resources with neighboring towns. The Merrimack River, which begins in Northern New Hampshire and ends at the Atlantic Ocean just south of Salisbury, is a great regional concern.

The Beach is one of the most important regional resources in Salisbury. Salisbury Beach State Reservation is the Commonwealth’s busiest vacation destination, with over two hundred thousand visitors annually to the four-mile beach and campground.

Salisbury is a member of the Triton Regional School District, along with the Towns of Newbury and Rowley. The Towns recently approved a multi- million dollar expansion to the middle/high school, including athletic facilities, which are expected to provide active recreational opportunities for students as well as the general public.

Over the last several years, the North Shore has seen a large increase in development. Now, with the reconstruction of the MBTA railroad line from Newburyport to Boston, that increase is even greater. Towns such as Newburyport and Rowley have emerged as hot real estate areas. Salisbury, a mere forty-two miles north of Boston and twenty miles south of Portsmouth, with its access to major interstate highways 495 and 95, is also seeing the impact of increased development, especially in areas close to Salisbury Beach. Our neighbor to the west, Amesbury, has also actively developed the area along Interstate 95 and 495, known as the Golden Triangle. A major supermarket anchors this development, with ten other businesses in the plaza; the commercial properties abutting this plaza are growing and developing too.

B. History of the Community

On September 6, 1638, Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Simon Bradstreet, received an agreement from Governor Winthrop and the General Court giving him and eleven other men the right to begin a plantation north of the Merrimack River. This land grant included the towns of Amesbury and Merrimac, Massachusetts as well as the New Hampshire towns of Seabrook, South Hampton, Newton, Hampstead, Plaistow and Kingston.

This town, bordered by the Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean, originally named Colchester, was incorporated as Salisbury in 1640. Salisbury grew over time, due to upland farms, salt marsh estuaries, boat building along the river, and its position on a major overland trade route to the north. When railroads were introduced, the line followed earlier routes from Newburyport north to Portsmouth, aided by a low, gentle landscape that generally lacks steep hillsides or rocky terrain. With railroads, growing wealth and leisure time, and an emerging middle class, Salisbury's unbroken sandy beachfront beckoned to vacationers, establishing an economic engine that, even today, remains important and provides image and identity to the Town.

In the nineteenth century, the oceanfront became an object of interest to people who were



beginning to shed their earlier, close ties to the land. Tourism and recreation blossomed at the beach with the arrival of hotels, amusements and retailing, some of which continue to operate today.

The modern Salisbury is highly diverse geographically, encompassing sixteen square miles of farms, beach, marshlands and both residential and commercial space. As of the year 2000, nearly

90 percent of this area, or 9,200 acres, was in various types of open space. Nearly forty percent is forested, while more than a third is wetland and estuary. Ten percent is in open and agricultural land, and four percent is recreational. The Great Marsh and estuaries of the Merrimack River make up the largest linked bodies of open land.

The Town includes four distinctly different areas: Salisbury Beach, a barrier beach with miles of beautiful sandy Atlantic Ocean beaches and salt marshes surrounding dense residential and commercial beachfront development; Salisbury Plains, featuring farms and suburban homes set in fields and rolling woodlands; Salisbury Square, a colonial village center with churches, municipal buildings and village residences; Ring's Island, once a colonial fishing village facing Newburyport on the Merrimack River and now supporting a neighborhood of restored antique homes and riverfront marine businesses.

Points of interest include:

- Salisbury Beach State Reservation, the Commonwealth's busiest state park, with over two hundred thousand visitors annually to the four-mile beach and campground
- the center beach amusement area
- the historical fishing village of Rings Island, childhood home of Edna St. Vincent Millay
- Salisbury Rail Trail Bike Path

Active community groups and cooperation between town officials and townspeople make Salisbury a fine place to live, locate a business or spend a vacation.
(<http://www.salisburyma.gov/hist.html>).

B. Population Characteristics

Table 3-1: Population and Projections for Salisbury

	1990	2000	% Change	2010 Projections	2020 Projections
Under 5	515	483	-6.20%	495	527
5-9 years	433	508	17.30%	494	527
10-14 years	453	550	21.40%	544	556
15-19 years	485	455	-6.20%	564	550
20-24 years	413	352	-14.80%	423	418
25-29 years	589	442	-25.00%	443	555
30-34 years	652	575	-11.80%	504	604
35-39 years	569	733	28.80%	542	544
40-44 years	560	759	35.50%	669	585
45-49 years	457	603	31.90%	812	598
50-54 years	323	579	79.20%	781	691
55-59 years	337	498	47.80%	630	850
60-64 years	281	359	27.80%	636	864
65-69 years	277	303	9.40%	464	597
70-74 years	229	238	3.90%	305	550
75-79 years	144	166	15.30%	208	329
80-84 years	80	140	75.00%	157	209
85 & over	85	84	-1.20%	136	183
TOTAL POP	6,882	7,827	13.70%	8,807	9,737

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census & MISER Middle Series Population Projections

From 1990 to 2000, there were major decreases in population of people aged 15 – 34. There has been a substantial increase from 1990-2000 in the 50-54 and 80-84 years (79.2% and 75.00% respectively), as well as those age 35-49. Salisbury may be seen as a place to retire, as people imagine themselves retiring in a beach community. The Department of Housing and Community Development observes that the residential density of Salisbury is 446 people per square mile (Source: <http://www.mass.gov/dhcd/ipofile/259.pdf>). The Office of the Salisbury Town Clerk conducts an annual census; for calendar year 2006, the Town Clerk computed that the population of Salisbury was 7,420 people. Like the U.S. Census, the Town census is based on voluntary compliance and understates the actual population.

Table 3-2: Regional Median Family Income, 1989 & 1999

	1989 Median Family Income	1999 Median Family Income
Salisbury	\$40,062	\$56,327
Amesbury	\$44,554	\$62,875
Andover	\$70,757	\$104,820
Boxford	\$83,509	\$119,491
Georgetown	\$50,927	\$79,649
Groveland	\$52,593	\$73,996
Haverhill	\$43,209	\$59,772
Lawrence	\$26,398	\$31,809
Merrimac	\$46,276	\$69,118
Methuen	\$44,901	\$59,831
Newbury	\$47,711	\$83,428
Newburyport	\$53,012	\$73,306
North Andover	\$61,468	\$91,105
Rowley	\$52,677	\$75,527
West Newbury	\$60,381	\$99,050
Massachusetts	\$44,367	\$61,664

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census

Salisbury's median family income has seen an increase from 1989 to 1999, but it is still one of the lowest in the Merrimack Valley as well as below the State's median family income. Salisbury's median family income is only higher than Lawrence's in the Merrimack Valley.

Table 3-3: Top Employers in Salisbury, MA

Employer	Location	# of Employees
Andover Healthcare	9 Fanaras Drive	220
The Town of Salisbury	5 Beach Road	152 (full & part-time & seasonal)
Cambridgport Air Systems	10 Fanaras Drive	130
SPS New England	98 Elm Street	160
Salisbury Elementary School	100 Lafayette Road	105
Stripers Grille	175 Bridge Road	60
Sylvan Street Grille	195 Elm Street	60
Vaughan Corp.	386 Old Elm Street	51
Johnson Lumber	110 Main Street	28
T.H. Gleason, Inc.	26 Fanaras Drive	16
Safety Kleen Corp.	189 Willow Street	17

Source: Phone Interviews, 2007

D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns & Trends

The following text is taken from the MHS Reconnaissance Survey Report, done in 1985. “Salisbury was first settled by Europeans in 1638 as part of the Merrimac Plantation. This territory included all lands from the Merrimack River north for ten miles including what is now the town of Seabrook, a portion of Hampton, Exeter, Kensington, Kingston and South Hampton, all in New Hampshire, the Haverhill line to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Initial settlement was made near the ocean in the vicinity of Beach Road and Ferry Road where original land grants around Salisbury Green were made...Salisbury grantors agreed that each settler should have two pieces of meadow and a certain amount of planting land determined by the wealth of each individual or grantee...All first division lands and lots earlier granted were located in the circular road with other early grants on the road to the neck and the Beach Road”.

Table 3-4: Median Sales Price of Single Family Homes

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007 (Jan. - May)
Salisbury	\$121,250	\$103,500	\$175,000	\$322,500	\$251,000
Amesbury	\$129,450	\$124,500	\$212,000	\$335,000	\$320,000
Andover	\$222,000	\$247,000	\$395,450	\$576,000	\$559,000
Boxford	\$316,000	\$285,500	\$469,000	\$650,000	\$560,000
Georgetown	\$156,500	\$171,000	\$272,750	\$400,000	\$398,650
Groveland	\$154,000	\$160,105	\$225,000	\$375,000	\$375,000
Haverhill	\$129,900	\$116,250	\$184,900	\$314,000	\$286,500
Lawrence	\$106,200	\$66,900	\$122,000	\$243,950	\$209,000
Merrimac	\$118,000	\$146,000	\$238,475	\$362,500	\$330,000
Methuen	\$130,500	\$117,900	\$180,000	\$320,000	\$282,500
Newbury	\$157,000	\$163,500	\$317,500	\$444,000	\$372,500
Newburyport	\$153,000	\$165,000	\$292,250	\$450,000	\$388,250
North Andover	\$215,000	\$245,500	\$375,000	\$550,000	\$428,250
Rowley	\$165,750	\$186,000	\$321,000	\$432,500	\$461,500
West Newbury	\$200,000	\$226,500	\$309,000	\$482,500	\$448,500

Source: The Warren Group, 2007

Although the median sales price for single family homes has increased dramatically over the past 5 years in Salisbury, the price in Town is still less expensive than other towns in the region, especially compared to the towns that are considered waterfront.

Table 3-5: Regional Tax Rates, FY 2006

Salisbury	\$8.19
Amesbury	\$13.59
Andover	\$11.40-residential & open space \$17.95-commercial, industrial
Boxford	\$10.71
Georgetown	\$9.18
Groveland	\$9.59
Haverhill	\$10.71-residential \$18.88-commercial
Lawrence	\$8.86-residential \$20.31-commercial
Merrimac	\$10.80
Methuen	\$9.28-residential \$16.87-commercial
Newbury	\$8.79
Newburyport	\$10.26
North Andover	\$11.14-residential \$13.47-commercial/industrial
Rowley	\$9.80
West Newbury	\$10.16

Salisbury's Fiscal Year 2006 tax rate is the lowest in the region for commercial property and is second lowest in the region for residential property. This may entice residents and businesses to locate in Salisbury.

Source: Town Assessors Offices

Infrastructure

Transportation System

Salisbury benefits from its location at the junction of Interstates 95 and 495 as well as having Route 1 run through the Town. This makes access to New Hampshire, Maine and other parts of Massachusetts readily accessible.

The Town of Salisbury has extremely limited public transportation. The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), operates a Salisbury/Hampton Beach Bus, during the beach season of July 1 to September 4. This bus route 83 is geared more for people in neighboring towns to be able to access the beach. The route starts in Amesbury with one stop in Salisbury. It follows Elm Street (Route 110) to Beach Road, dropping riders off at Salisbury Beach and lastly, Hampton Beach. There are 7 established bus stops, but the MVRTA states that they “Operate on a flag policy” i.e., riders can stand on the bus route on the correct side of the street and wave and the bus will stop; unfortunately, this is not the case in Salisbury or Hampton. (<http://www.mvrta.com>). Salisbury Ring & Ride is a transportation service for the residents of Salisbury. This service allows residents of Salisbury to commute not only within Salisbury but to Amesbury and Newburyport as well, so long as the provider is given 24-hour notice. This service will also allow you to connect to the MVRTA fixed route bus system in Amesbury. It allows customers to travel to the Newburyport Commuter Rail Station throughout the day. This service operates Monday through Friday from 5am to 7pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 6pm with service provided by a MVRTA van.

The MBTA operates a commuter train to Boston from neighboring Newburyport. The train ride from Newburyport to North Station takes about one hour. The local train station provides 801 parking spots along with 22 bicycle spaces. Having this service so close to Salisbury may encourage people to move to Salisbury, a town that is less expensive than Newburyport and still an easy commute into Boston.

The Salisbury Council on Aging provides transportation in Salisbury on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30AM until 1:30PM and on Fridays from 9:30AM - 12:30PM, with a 2 day notice required. Rides to out of town appointments are also available through a volunteer (N.E.E.T.) program. Wednesdays are exclusively for the Seabrook Mall for grocery and other shopping. (<http://www.salisburymass.com/coa/forums/>).

Water Supply

There are approximately 400 private water wells in the Town, meaning that most of the Town is on public water (*Salisbury Health Department*). In 2001, the Town bought the water company. The Town’s public water supply is provided through three gravel-packed wells, which are currently permitted to pump 1.1 million gallons. The municipal water service has 3,100 accounts in Salisbury, generally, 1 account is for one household, commercial business, etc.), including approximately 150 users in the Rings Island Water District. There are projections that in 10-15 years, the Town will need approximately 1.5-1.6 million gallons of water (*Department of Public Works*).

Sewer

The sewerage of the Town of Salisbury began at the beach. This was done because of pollution that was occurring from septic systems and an existing inadequate sewerage system along the beach area. The sewerage of the beach, along with construction of the sewer plant, was completed in the 1980s. Currently, the sections of Town that are on public sewer include the entire beach, such as Broadway and North End Boulevard and land on the following roads: Beach Road, Mudnock Road, Elm Street, Bridge Road, Trout Lane, Forest Road, Allen Drive, Gerrish Road, Lafayette north to School House Lane and Rings Island. The plan for the future is to only sewer the land that lays East of Interstate-95 up to Interstate-95; this includes Rabbit Road, the Lafayette Road corridor, Main Street, Pike Street, Fanaras Drive, Bayberry Lane, and Jak-Len Drive. The estimated time of completion for these projects will be in 2010-2012 (*Source: Sewer Commission Member*).

Currently, 50% of homes in Salisbury are on public sewer. Also, 50% of the total parcels (homes, businesses, industry, etc.) in the Town have sewer available, and of that percentage, 75% of the parcels that have sewer available to them are hooked up to public sewer. Potentially, 80% of the Town may be on sewer someday; if this happens, the Wastewater Treatment Plant would need to be upgraded to handle the increase. This could be a likely scenario with the amount of condominiums being built. Currently, the Wastewater Treatment Facility receives and processes 700,000 gallons of wastewater per day; the design capacity of the facility is 1.3 millions gallons per day (Jeff Ingalls, Salisbury Wastewater Treatment Facility, phone interview 06/06).

Long-Term Development Patterns

Table 3-6: Salisbury Buildout Analysis

	1990	Current*	Buildout
Residents	6,882	7,827	10,853
Students (K-12)	1,137	846	1,386
Residential Units	2,522	4,156	5,281
Water Use (gallons/day)		940,008.22	1,604,488.22

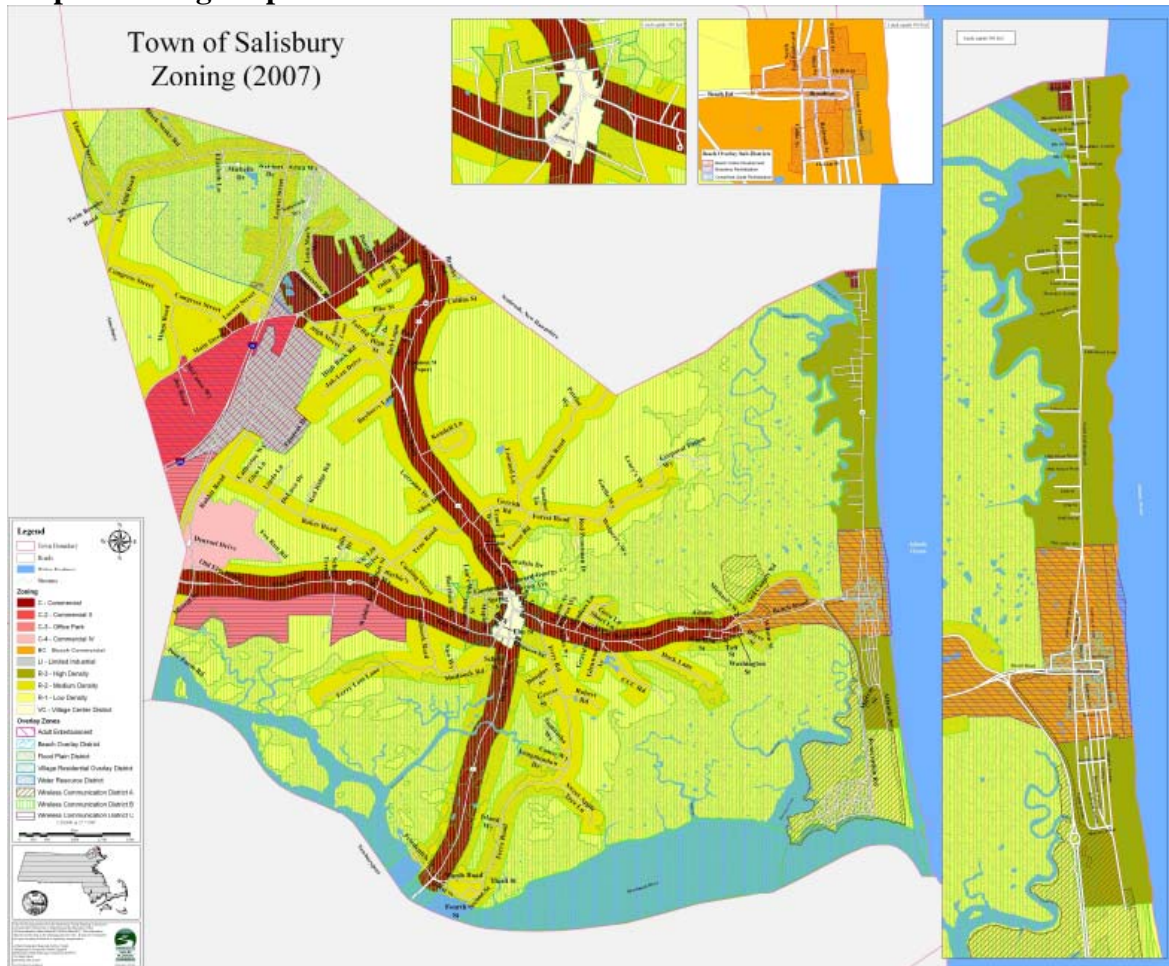
**Current is not present-day, 2006, but rather, when the buildout was completed=2001*

Source: Massachusetts EOE Buildout Analysis, Completed 2001

http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/community/cmtty_profile.asp?regionID=NE®ionName=Northeast&communityID=259&communityName=Salisbury&communityType=&communityCode=sali

The 2001 Buildout Analysis was based on current zoning on what can be built by right; Salisbury's zoning has changed since 2001 to allow for increased development near Salisbury Beach Center and Salisbury Square. Also, the buildout assumed that developed parcels would not be redeveloped. Since Salisbury has a substantial amount of underdeveloped parcels, the buildout analysis underestimates the potential future buildout.

Map 1: Zoning Map



Current zoning allows for a variety of dimensional requirements throughout the Town. In the main residential zones of town, R1, R2 and R3, the minimum lot sizes range from 2 acres to ¼ of an acre.

Table 3-7: Town of Salisbury Zoning Bylaw-Dimensional Control Table

	R1	R2	R3	BC Com	BC Res.	C		C2		C3		C4		LI	
Min Allowable Lot Size (Acres)	2	1	1/4	-	-	1/2		1		2 1/2		1		1	
Min. Allowable Frontage (feet)	200	150	40	-	-	100		150		150		100		150	
Min. Allowable Front Yard Setback (feet)	40	40	20	-	5	50		40		30		40		50	
Min. Allowable Side Yard Setback (feet)	20	20	10	*	**	Com / Com	Com/ Res	Com/ Com	Com/ Res	Com/ Com	Com/ Res	Com/ Com	Com/ Res	Com/ Com	Com/ Res
	20	20	10	*	**	20	30		30	25	25	20	30	25	100
Min. Allowable Rear Setback (feet)	20	20	10	-	**	20		20		40		20		20	
% of Building Lot Coverage Max. Allowed	20	25	60	100* **	90	25		25		40		40		40	
Max. Height Allowed (feet)	35	35	35	35	35	35		35		35		35		40	
Min. Number of Parking Spaces Allowed	2	2	2	-	2 per dwelling	-	5	5				2 per dwell ing	COM 5	12	

Source: Salisbury Zoning By-Laws, 2006, table amended 10/23/06

Flexible Residential Development

The Flexible Residential Development (FRD) Zoning Bylaw, adopted by Town Meeting May 16, 2005, is a new approach to maintaining open space within the community. Where there is a proposed residential subdivision of 5 acres or more in Zones R1, R2, C1, C2 and C4, the applicant must submit an FRD special permit application to the Planning Board. Some of the purposes of this bylaw, among others, are “to encourage the permanent preservation of open space” as well as “to encourage a more efficient and compact form of development that consumes less open land and natural materials and conforms to existing topography and natural features better than a conventional or grid subdivision” (Salisbury Zoning Bylaw, Section X.C.1). The open space to be preserved in perpetuity has to be at least 50 percent of the total land, must be contiguous and accessible to the public, among other requirements that can also be found in the mentioned bylaw. In return for providing this desired open space, the developer receives a reduction of dimensional requirements and may also receive a density bonus (given by the Planning Board). Density bonuses can be awarded for every 10% of open space over the minimum 50 percent; for restricting houses to low or moderate income families; or if the entire development is of New England townhouse village style for those aged 55 years and over (X.C.12 Increases in Permissible Density).

Water Resource District

The Water Resource District is an overlay zoning district and includes the aquifers and aquifer recharge areas which provide water supply for the Town of Salisbury. The purpose is to protect the public health by preventing contamination of the surface water and ground water resources providing existing and potential water supply for the Town of Salisbury (Zoning Bylaws 2005, Section XB).

Building Permits

The number of residential building permits issued from 2000-2006 are as follows. These numbers only show “new dwelling” permits, and do not include new commercial projects or additions to already built residences. These numbers do not necessarily reflect new dwelling units, but new dwelling projects. Many of these permits in the later years are multi-unit condominiums or subdivisions. These numbers can be deceiving as the comprehensive permit for Chapter 40B developments can be pulled under one building permit as well, and so will include many units, just like with condominium projects.

of permits

2000:	33
2001:	31
2002:	54
2003:	117
2004:	105
2005:	41
2006:	23
2007 (until May):	7

Conservation Regulations

3.05 Forest Areas

According to the Conservation Commission Regulations, Section 3.05 on Forests, “A forest area shall be any location where more than six trees exist, which provides one or more of the following benefits:

- A shelter and food source for wildlife
- A supply of forest wood products, fuel, lumber
- A resource area for public or private water supply
- A function of flood and erosion control
- An area which may be enjoyed by the public

Any harvesting or altering of a forest area shall require a Plan of Operation to be filed with the Salisbury Conservation Commission”.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Topography, Geology, and Soils

Salisbury is characterized by generally low relief typical of most coastal communities. Elevations range from a high of 170 feet above mean sea level (MSL) on Batt Hill in the northwest corner of town to a few feet above mean sea level at Salisbury Beach, along the banks of the Merrimack River, and throughout the network of tributary tidal creeks (Blackwater River, Town Shad, and Black Rock Creeks) that crisscross the salt marsh. Dotting the marsh are a number of small isolated knolls that rise somewhat above the marsh surface. Aside from the salt marsh itself, the most prominent feature of the landscape is Salisbury Beach. Officially designated as a “Barrier Beach” by the State of Massachusetts, this narrow strip of land is the town’s first line of defense against coastal storms and provides protection against flooding of the mainland. Its vegetated dunes promote stability of the beach by moderating the dynamic processes of sand accretion and erosion that result from the action of wind, waves, and tides. Urban development has eliminated portions of this protective dune system, thus reducing its effectiveness as a storm barrier, but a program of sea grass plantings and dune restoration is underway.

Bedrock and Surficial Geology

Much of Salisbury is underlain by the Merrimack Quartzite, a resistant formation of fine-grained slately phyllite that extends in a wide belt along the Merrimack River from the western boundary of Essex County eastward to Newburyport and Salisbury. Some of this bedrock resisted the scouring that occurred during the last glacial period (about 12,000 years ago), and now serves as the core of a gently sloping terrace that stands somewhat above the terrain to the east and south. Topping this terrace are several elongate drumlin hills, such as Batt Hill, composed of thick deposits of very clayey, slowly-permeable till. Southward and eastward in the lowland marshes and along stream courses, this still becomes irregular and thin, giving way to fibrous organic sediments and marine clays. Outcroppings of bedrock are scant, and expansive deposits of sand and gravel (aquifers) are essentially absent. An exception to the latter is the Salisbury Plains area, where deep deposits of outwash sand and gravel yield groundwater in sufficient quantities to satisfy much of the town’s water supply needs.

Soils

Salisbury contains a variety of soil types, ranging from excessively drained deposits of coastal and outwash sands at the beach and Salisbury Plains area to very poorly drained clays, loams, and organic materials on the hilltops and in wetlands. General descriptions and a map of these soil types follow. The descriptions identify the names and locations of the dominant soils, as well as their major properties and limitations for various agricultural, recreational, and community development uses.

Woodbridge-Paxton-Charlton-Hollis Association: Moderately well drained stony soils formed in compact glacial till. This soil composite occupies about 2 percent of the town and occurs on the tops and slopes of several of the drumlin hills, such as Batt Hill, in the northwest corner of town. In general, these soils present only slight limitations for woodlands, agriculture, and various recreational uses, but severely restrict intensive

residential, commercial, or industrial uses where a communal sewer system is not available. The presence of a shallow hardpan layer or bedrock (“ledge”) tends to impede the downward movement of water, resulting in saturated soil conditions that can cause septic tank failures and wet cellars.

Hinckley-Sudbury-Gravel Pit Association: Well drained soils formed in thick deposits of sand and gravel.

This general soil type occupies about 11 percent of the town and occurs on flat to gently sloping stream terraces and outwash plains located at the junction of Route I-95 and Main Street (the Salisbury Plains Area) in the northwest corner of town. These soils have a rapid permeability (i.e. they transmit water readily), and are a high volume source of groundwater. They present only slight limitations for recreational uses, but should not be intensively developed for residential, commercial or industrial uses due to the potential to contaminate shallow wells with septic system effluent.

Windsor-Deerfield Association: Well-drained soils formed in thick deposits of Sand.

This soil association occupies about 10 percent of the town and occurs in three separate tracks. The largest of these extends eastward and southward from the vicinity of the town center. The other two occur in the southwestern and northwestern corners of town. In all of them, the landscape consists of old river terraces and outwash plains that are level or gently sloping. The sandy nature of these soils allows them to absorb sewage effluent readily, but can contribute to localized contamination of shallow wells where septic systems are installed nearby. For this reason, these soil areas are considered to have slight to moderate limitations for high-density residential, commercial, or industrial development. They are generally suitable for agriculture and can readily accommodate most kinds of recreation.

Augres-Scarboro-Deerfield Association: Poorly-drained soils formed in thick deposits of sand.

This soil association occupies about 15 percent of the town and occurs in several scattered locations on gently sloping stream terraces and outwash plains. These areas are characterized by a high water table that keeps them wet during winter, early spring, and after prolonged periods of rainfall. They are generally unsuitable for building construction and septic system use, but provide excellent wetland wildlife habitat and some limited recreation opportunities (hiking, hunting, nature observation).

Scantic-Belgrade-Raynham Association: Poorly drained soils formed in fine sands, silts, and clays.

This soil association occupies about 20 percent of the town and occurs in two areas that form a nearly a continuous band from the Mingo Road area in the western part of town to the Forest Road area in the eastern end. The topography generally consists of a low-lying marine plain dotted with knolls. The permeability of the soil is very slow and the water table remains at or near the surface for 7 to 9 months of the year. This imposes severe limitations on virtually all kinds of development, but offers excellent opportunities for wetland wildlife habitat and various forms of recreation.

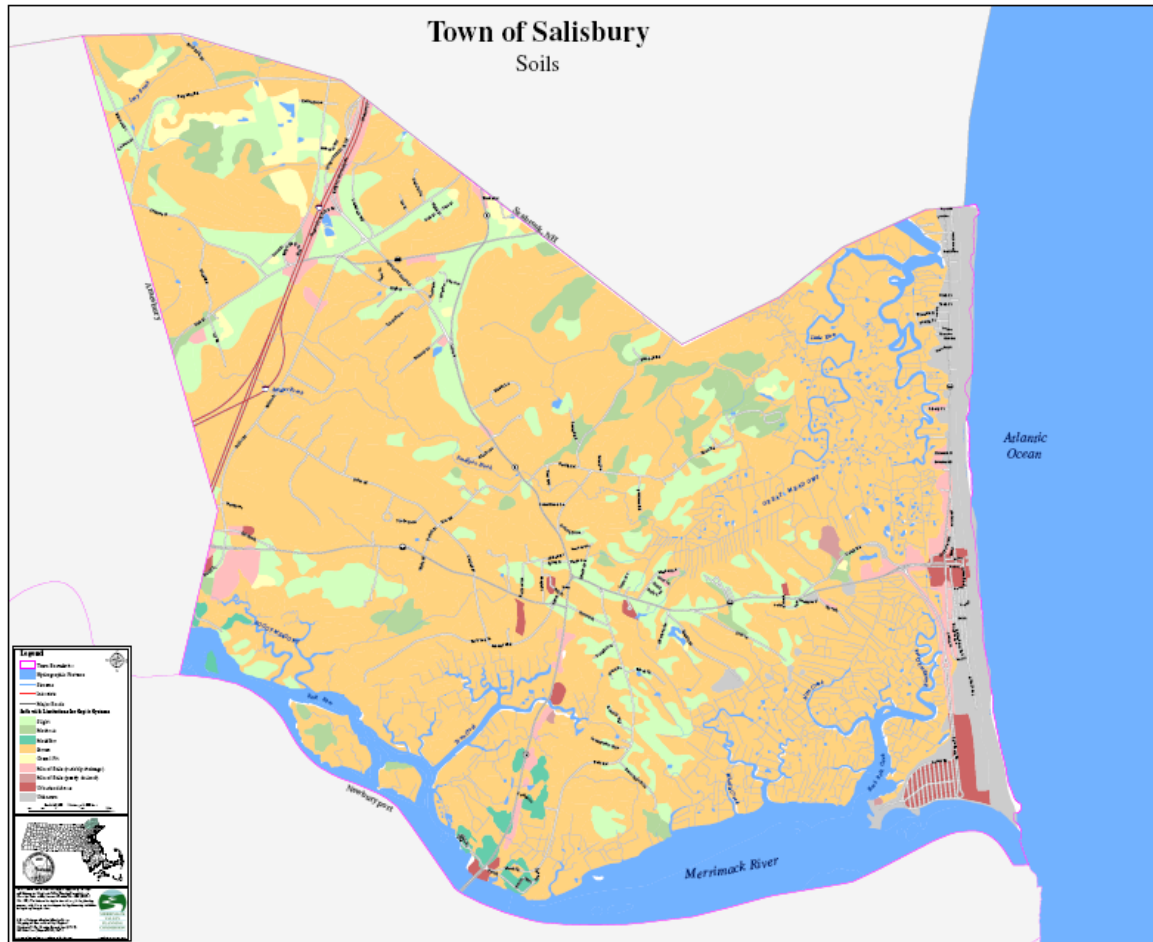
Windsor (Rocky Phase) – Rock Land Association: Drouthy soils formed in deposits of sand with frequent bedrock outcroppings.

This general soil area occupies about 5 percent of the town and occurs in the north central part of town adjacent to the tidal marsh. The topography of the area consists of small irregular hills and knolls rising 20 to 50 feet above the surrounding terrain. The soils have a rapid permeability but are shallow, occurring as a thin mantle on the underlying bedrock. As a result, they severally restrict building construction and septic system use. However, they support an assemblage of trees and shrubs that provide wildlife habitat, and can accommodate numerous kinds of recreation.

Tidal Marsh-Buxton (Rock Phase) Association: Very poorly-drained organic deposits and clays subject to regular tidal flooding and shallow silty soils formed in a thin mantle above bedrock.

This soil association occupies about 12 percent of the surveyed area of town and 90 percent of the remaining 2,590 acres excluded from the survey. It occurs in the broad expanses of salt marsh that characterize much of the southern and eastern parts of town. The topography is flat with scattered small knolls that rise 10 to 30 feet above the level of the marsh. Regular tidal flooding severely limits development of these areas but gives rise to outstanding marsh habitat that supports a wide assortment of mammals, birds, finfish, and shellfish.

Map 2: Soils



Map 3: Geological Features

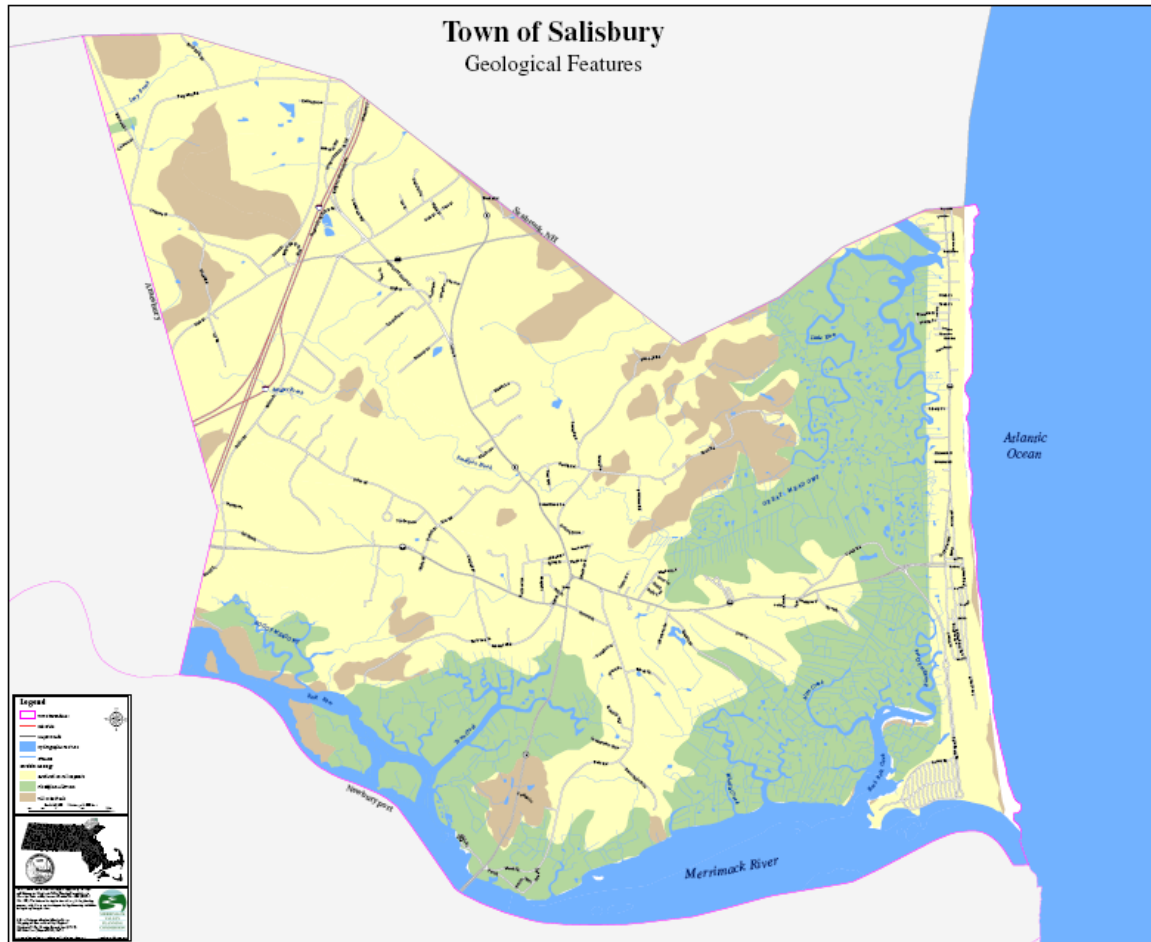


Table 4-1: Approximate Acreage and Proportional Extent of the General Soil Areas in the Town of Salisbury

General Soil Area	Acres	Percent
Woodbridge-Paxton-Charlton-Hollis Association	244	2
Hinckley-Sudbury-Gravel Pit Association	1,130	11
Windsor-Deerfield Association	1,063	10
Au Gres-Scarboro-Deerfield Association	1,518	15
Scantic-Belgrade-Raynham Association	2,063	20
Windsor (Rocky Phase) -Rock Land Association	520	5
Tidal Marsh-Buxton (Rocky Phase) Association	1,195	12
Total for Survey Area	7,733	75
Area Excluded from Survey	2,590	25
Total	10,323	100

B. Landscape Character

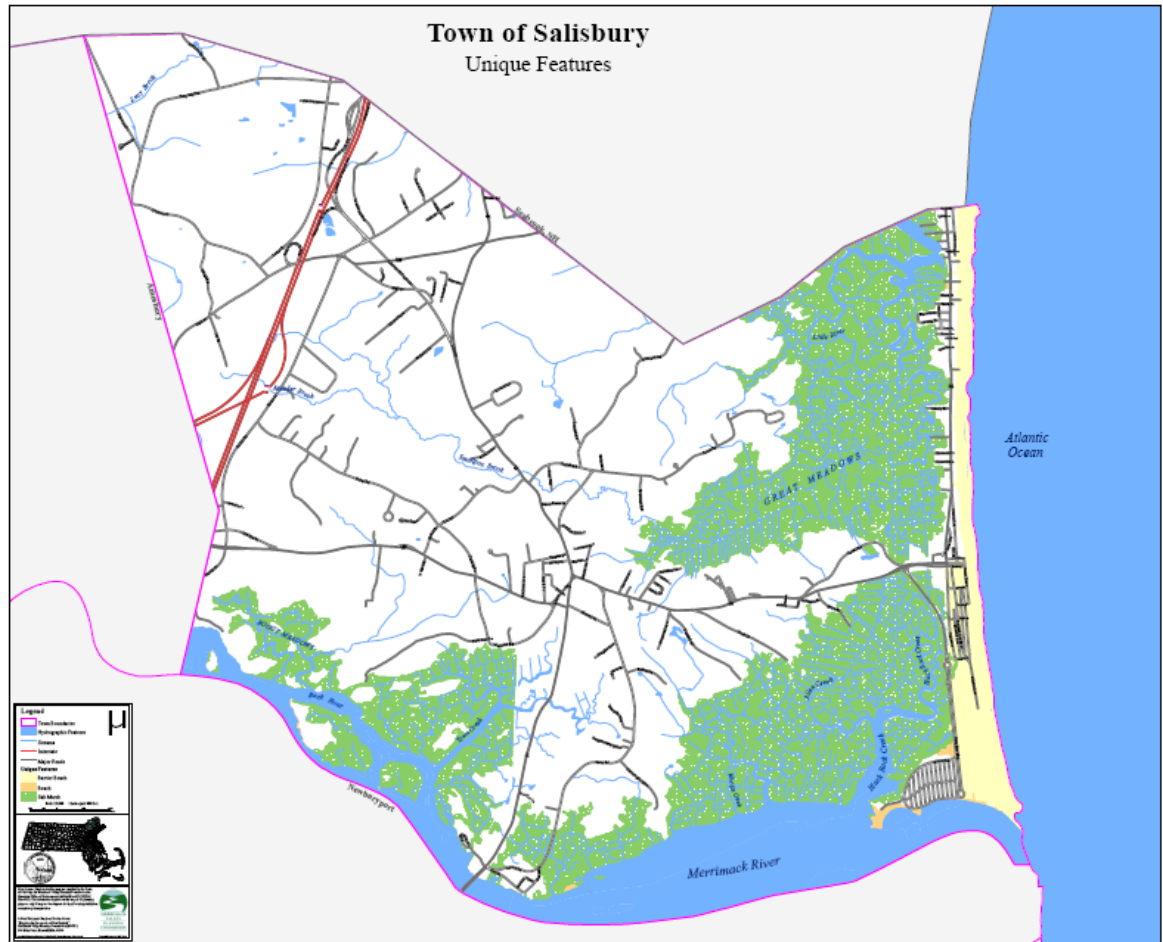
Salisbury's landscape has four distinct looks. In what is known as the Plains Area (northwest area of Town), the landscape is farms and fields. The downtown of Salisbury, known as Salisbury Square, has the amenities one would associate with a small New England main street, town hall, a post office, library, a town common, which hosts the lit Christmas tree during the holidays, and businesses. Rings Island is a beautiful "fishing village", featuring old sea captains homes, along with sweeping views of the Merrimack River and Newburyport's skyline. Finally, what Salisbury is best known for, is the beach area. The beach center area abuts the Atlantic Ocean, while also showcasing views of the marsh area. Salisbury Beach State Reservation allows for views of the ocean, marsh and Merrimack River, making it a truly unique experience.

Landuse Summary

70.9% Forest, Wetland & Open Space
16.5% Residential
6.8% Commercial
5.7% Agriculture

Source: MassGIS1999, MVPC

Map 4: Unique Features Map



C. Water Resources

Harbor Planning

Salisbury's Harbor Commission is in the process of writing a Harbor Plan with an expected completion in 2007. This plan will be used to guide development and projects along the shores of Salisbury.

Town Creek

No current recreation access, discussion regarding the opportunity for a kayak launch off the Rail Trail, nothing finalized

Black Rock Creek

Recreation access from State Reservation via a ramp for kayaking, boating and fishing

Black Water River

No recreational access in Salisbury; recreational access is available through neighboring Seabrook, NH

Merrimack River

Recreation access for kayaking, boating and fishing is available from the State Reservation via a ramp from the Town Pier at Ring's Island. The Harbor Commission also is planning a riverside recreational facility at Friedenfels Road on land the Town recently leased from the MBTA.

Watersheds-Protection Efforts

Salisbury lays within the Merrimack River Watershed, the 4th largest watershed in New England. This watershed encompasses central and southern New Hampshire and northeast Massachusetts. It is formed by the confluence of the Pemigewasset River and the Winnepesaukee River. The watershed occupies 5,010 square miles, 203 communities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and contains 17 subwatersheds (www.merrimack.org/aboutwatershed/greography.htm). The subwatershed in Salisbury is the Powow River Subwatershed; the communities in Massachusetts that are part of this subwatershed are Merrimac, Amesbury, and a small part of Salisbury (www.mass.gov/envir/water/merrimack/merrimack.htm). The Powow River is dammed at many points, thus, it is now constituted as lakes and ponds connected by a river corridor. This subwatershed is blessed with high-level water quality; the report states that "It is a Class A water (designated public water supply) from the Tuxbury Pond outlet to the Lake Gardner inlet. It is a Class B water from the Lake Gardner outlet to the tidal portion (mile 1.3) and Class SB in the tidal portion (mile 1.3 to 0.0)". (page 4)

Salisbury, along with Amesbury, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury and Newburyport, are part of the Lower Basin of the Merrimack River. The EOE Merrimack River Watershed Team created the "Merrimack River 5-year Watershed Action Plan 2002-2007", in which the authors assessed various aspects of the Upper, Middle and Lower Basins, and arrived at goals and strategies. For the purposes of this Open Space Plan, we will only be concerned with the Lower Basin [Amesbury, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & Salisbury] as that is Salisbury's location on the River. A Merrimack Watershed Team was assembled to consider goals and strategies for the protection of the watershed.

The teams decided upon five goals to take action on; these goals are as follows:

1. Improved water quality in the mainstream and tributaries
2. Sustainable water supply to support predicted future population increases
3. Preventing future flooding in known flood-prone areas
4. Managed growth that reduces sprawl and protects critical open space, habitats, and water resources
5. Improved recreational access and regional open space protection for all watershed residents.

Surface Water

As the accompanying water resources map indicates, Salisbury is blessed with an array of interconnected upland and coastal streams and wetlands that serve important ecological functions and provide a variety of opportunities for recreational enjoyment. Among these are: the **Merrimack River**, the region's pre-eminent freshwater resource which forms the town's southern border and offers its citizens outstanding opportunities for motor boating, canoeing, fishing, wildlife observation, and scenic enjoyment; the **Blackwater River**,

which courses through the northeast section of town south of Hampton Harbor in Seabrook, New Hampshire; Morrill Creek, Shad Creek, Allen Creek and Black Rock Creek, which together dissect large expanses of salt marsh on the southeastern end of town as they flow to the Merrimack River; Town Creek which runs south into the Merrimack River through the salt marsh near Mudnock and Bridge Roads, and Smallpox Brook and Meader Brook which rise near the Rabbit Road – Route 95 junction, merge, and flow easterly to the salt marsh north of Beach Road.

Aquifer Recharge Areas

In addition to the surface water resources, there are two highly permeable sand and gravel deposits (aquifers) in the northwest quadrant of the town which contain large volumes of groundwater. Three wells installed in these deposits provide the town's water public supply. The remainder of the town is essentially devoid of shallow water-bearing deposits and thus incapable of yielding additional supplies except in small, unreliable quantities. This scarcity of groundwater resources points to the need to protect the existing aquifers and their recharge areas from potentially harmful land use activities.

Wetlands

Salisbury requires wetland replications of 2:1, meaning 2 square feet of wetlands need to be replicated on-site for every 1 square foot that is being destroyed. This is stricter than the State regulations; Salisbury chose these stricter regulations because wetland replication is not always successful. Wetlands are useful for flood storage and for the filtering of runoff for the water table and the ocean. Because of Salisbury's coastal location, there are many wetlands in Town. Salisbury's Conservation Commission also requires a 25-foot buffer from any waterbody of "no disturbance" and a 40-foot buffer of "no build". These restrictions also are stricter than the state's regulations.

Salisbury's Conservation Commission protects the wetlands by enforcing the Town of Salisbury's "Salisbury Wetland Bylaw Regulations", which includes regulations beyond the Rivers Protection Act and the Wetlands Protection Act and the Conservation Commission Rules & Regulations.

"The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP) together with numerous partners has completed the Draft Great Marsh Coastal Wetlands Restoration Plan (Draft Plan) as a tool to help communities in the Great Marsh region identify and restore degraded and former coastal wetland habitats" (*Wetlands Restoration Program-Great Marsh Coastal Restoration Plan*). The Plan identifies 121 potential and completed salt marsh restoration sites in the Great Marsh area, 22 sites being located in Salisbury. The sites are rated by priority of high, medium or low, 9 of the sites in Salisbury are rated as low priority, 10 as medium, 1 as high, with 2 sites currently being in development.

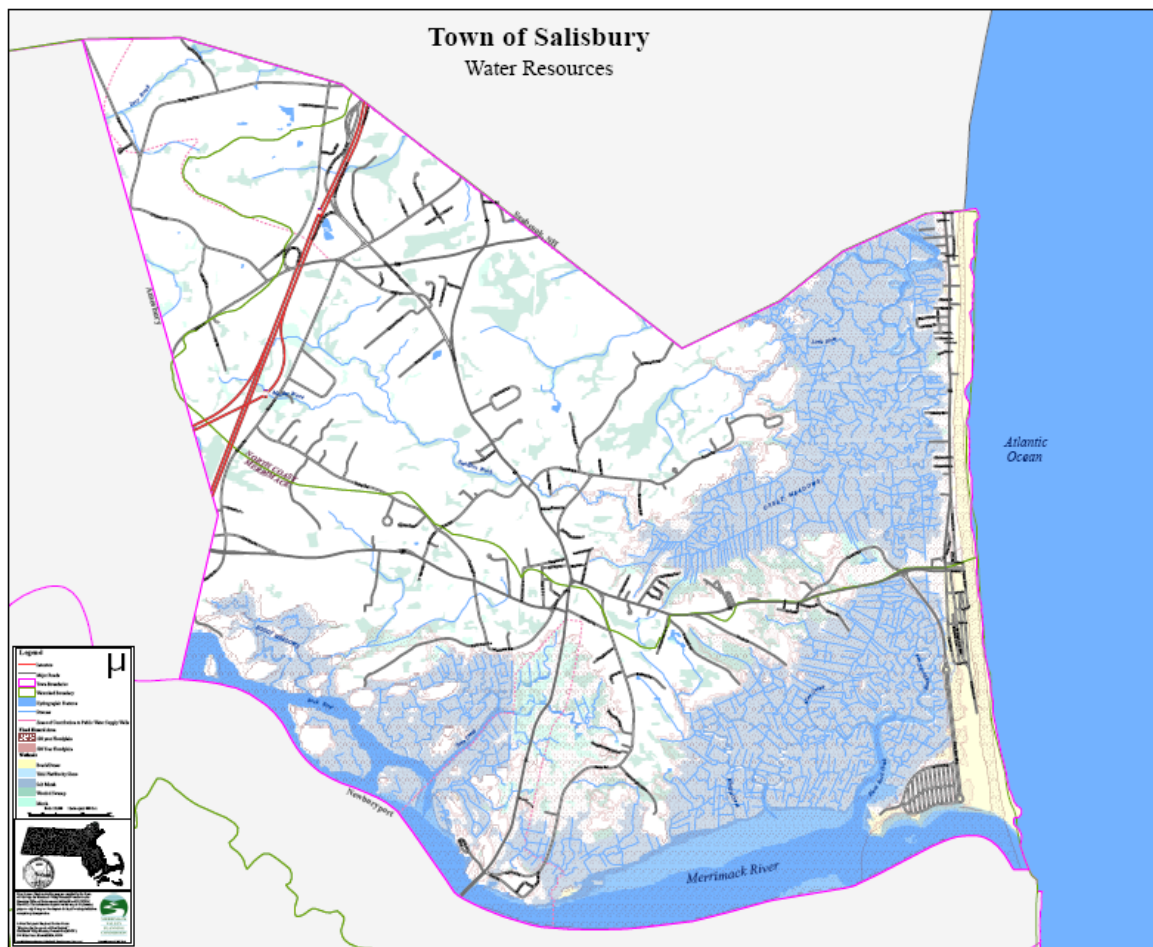
Table 4-2: Great Marsh Coastal Wetlands Potential Restoration Sites in Salisbury

Site ID	Site	Priority	Status	Impact Types	Acres
1	Site consists of ~0.5 acre of an upland island in the middle of salt marsh east of Dead Creek and northwest of Eleventh Street.	Low	Potential Project	Fill	0.7
2	Between Dead Creek and Northern Blvd	Low	Potential Project	Fill	0.9
5	West of the Star of the Sea Church	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	1.1
6	Beach Road	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	4.7
7	northern end of Beach Rd (baseball fields)	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	1.2
8	Northern Blvd, just north of intersection with Beach Rd	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	5.7
10	East of access rd to Salisbury Beach State Reservation	Medium	Potential Project	Restriction	10.3
14	Town Creek	High	Potential Project Under Development	Restriction	117.6
17	The Salisbury Beach State Reservation Access Road and rotary were built on top of a portion of Black Rock Creek which was diverted through a new channel to the west of the rotary. This site consists of the remnants of the old river channel and salt marsh east of the access road and rotary.	Low	Potential Project	Restriction	1.9
24	Adjacent to the Black Rock Beach located at the southern tip of the Salisbury Beach State Reservation, southwest of the campground area.	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	4.5
212	Linear features of fill along the banks of the Blackwater River south of the Rt. 286 bridge that may be remnants of an old road and/or water control dikes	Low	Potential Project	Fill	0.6
320	Filled/altered wetland area behind commercial properties along the west side of Rt. 1 and within the larger, highly degraded Town Creek wetland system (see site #14).	Low	Potential Project	Fill	2.1
326	Small wetland area between Route 1 and the abandoned railroad bed, just north of the Merrimack River	Low	Potential Project	Restriction	1.2
328	Rings Island marsh	Low	Potential Project	Restriction	5.1
329	Rings Island marsh	High	Potential Project	Restriction	31.6
330	Site consists of an old stone dike across a salt marsh that may restrict tidal flows	Medium	Potential Project	Restriction	4.4
340	Historically-filled/altered salt marsh based on GIS analysis and visual observations	Medium	Potential Project	Fill	1.9
344	Area of marsh south of Hayes Street where an apparent old berm or hay road crosses the marsh and may be restricting tidal flow to 5+ acres of upstream wetland	Medium	Potential Project	Restriction	5.6

Site ID	Site	Priority	Status	Impact Types	Acres
348	Part of a development project, Atlantic Breeze Condominiums, that was recently built on the property just northeast of the site	Medium	Potential Project	Restriction	1.2
353	Privately-owned site consists of a salt marsh bounded by a commercial property along Beach Road to the south and Old County Road to the north	Medium	Potential Project Under Development	Restriction	7.6
391	Site consists of an old earth and stone dike across a marsh in the western portion of Boggy Meadows, north of the Merrimack River	Low	Potential Project	Fill	2.3
393	Northern bank of the Merrimack River, east of the Route 1 crossing, and appears to be owned by the Essex County Greenbelt Association	Low	Potential Project	Fill	2.6

Source: Wetlands Restoration Program-http://www.mass.gov/czm/wrp/planning_pages/gmplan/sites/1.htm

Map 5: Water Resources



C. Vegetation

General Vegetation Inventory

Barrier Beach, Maritime Dunes, Salt Marsh, Freshwater Wetlands, and Uplands.

The barrier beach and maritime dunes are characterized by American beachgrass, coastal panic grass closest to the water with Japanese sedge, bayberry, beach plum and rugosa rose further landward.

Salt Marshes are characterized mainly by smooth cordgrass and various other grasses, but you will also find rushes and sedges. Despite the sparse variety of vegetation, salt marshes are the most productive habitats.

Wetland Vegetation

Typical plants found in freshwater wetlands are sphagnum moss, pickerelweed, cattails, highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, and red maple.

In the uplands, white pine, eastern hemlock, and gray birch, will be found. White pines are nesting trees for eagles and other birds of prey and are thus highly regarded for preservation of wildlife habitat.

Heritage Trees and Street Trees

Heritage trees are defined as trees that have a diameter of 32" or more. According to the Town's Tree Warden, there are only 2 such trees in Salisbury.

There is currently no Street Tree Plan, but the tree warden has designated target areas in Town. These target areas are places such as parks, schools, municipal facilities, and even school bus stops; if trees were to be cut in a target area, a tree would need to be planted in its place.

Forest land

There is only one parcel of forest land in Salisbury that is held in Chapter 61.

Agricultural Land

Salisbury, like many other New England towns, was populated with farms. Currently, there are 74 parcels of agricultural land that are held in Chapter 61A, totaling 822.69 acres.

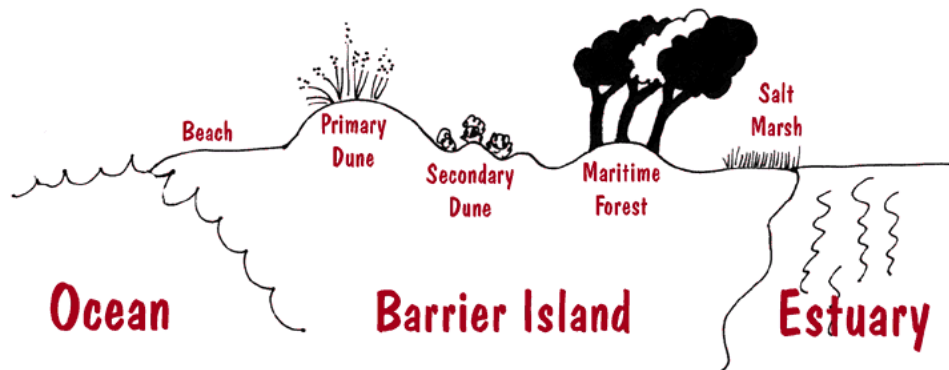
Sites having unique natural resources

The barrier beach of Salisbury plays an important role in the protection of the mainland from wave energy during storms. The dune system and beachgrass in the barrier beach, help to fight erosion. These systems, although strong enough to deter storms and natural environment challenges, are very sensitive to human damage (*Abstract-Barrier Beaches*).

Salt marshes are another most unique natural resource to Salisbury. Salt marshes are defined by the Woods Hole Research Center as "coastal wetlands that form in areas protected from erosion, typically behind a barrier beach or tidal flat, and extend from the

mid-tide line to the highest spring tide line. Salt marshes are dominated by grasses, and characterized by dense peat layers beneath the lush surfaces” (Woods Hole Research Center- http://www.whrc.org/capecod/critical_habitats/Barrier_Beaches.htm). The vegetation in salt marshes consist of salt water cord-grass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and salt meadow-grass (*Spartina patens*). “Salt marshes are among the most productive of all ecosystems on the planet. The grasses take up nutrients (sometimes from pollution), and the anaerobic bacteria that live in the ecosystem break down nitrates so efficiently that water quality is often improved by flowing through a marsh. The grasses also slow down the tidal currents and capture sediments, which gradually raises the level of the marsh until only high tides flood it” (Woods Hole Research Center- http://www.whrc.org/capecod/critical_habitats/Barrier_Beaches.htm). Residents used to obtain their hay for their animals from the salt marshes.

Cross-Section of a Barrier Island



Source: www.mbgnet.net/salt/sandy/barrier.htm

Table 4-3: Rare Plants in Salisbury

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Most Recent Observation
Vascular Plant	<i>Aristida tuberculosa</i>	Seabeach Needlegrass	T	2000
Vascular Plant	<i>Bidens eatonii</i>	Eaton's Beggar-ticks	E	1902
Vascular Plant	<i>Carex recta</i>	Saline Sedge	E	1985
Vascular Plant	<i>Paronychia argyrocoma</i>	Silverling	E	2000
Vascular Plant	<i>Bidens hyperborea</i> var. <i>colpophila</i>	Estuary Beggar-ticks	E	1902
Vascular Plant	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand Dropseed	WL	

Source: NHESP Rare Plants & Animals

(Salisbury) <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/towns.htm#salisbury>, last updated 6/29/2006

State Rank: E=Endangered T=Threatened SC=Special Concern

WL=unofficial Watch List, not regulated

D. Fisheries and Wildlife

The Harbormaster provided information on the shellfish that can be found in the Merrimack River: soft shell clams, blue mussels and periwinkles. All of these shellfish are plentiful and are not in danger of being considered rare or threatened (Ray Pike, Harbormaster, Interview). The tables that follow are of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals found in Essex County.

Table 4-4: Amphibians & Reptiles in Essex County

AMPHIBIA	REPTILIA
Blue-Spotted Salamander*	Snapping Turtle
Spotted Salamander	Eastern Musk Turtle
Marbled Salamander*	Painted Turtle
Eastern Newt	Spotted Turtle*
Northern Dusky Salamander	Wood Turtle*
Eastern Red-backed Salamander	Blanding's Turtle*
Four-toed Salamander*	Eastern Box Turtle*
Northern Two-lined Salamander	Leatherback Sea Turtle*
Eastern Spadefoot*	Eastern Racer
American Toad	Ringnecked Snake
Fowler's Toad	Eastern Hognosed Snake
Spring Peeper	Milksnake
Gray Treefrog	Northern Watersnake
American Bullfrog	Smooth Greensnake
Green Frog	Dekay's Brownsnake
Pickerel Frog	Red-bellied Snake
Northern Leopard Frog	Eastern Ribbonsnake
Wood Frog	Common Gartersnake

* Those species appearing on the current list of Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species in Mass. as authorized by M.G.L. c. 131 4(13A) & c. 131A 4

Source: Mass Wildlife's State Reptiles & Amphibians List, 2002 (www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwamph.htm)

Salisbury's environment plays host to many different animals, which live in the waters and land of Salisbury. The protection and conservation of these environments is vital for these animals to flourish.

Table 4-5: Mammals in Essex County

MAMMALS		
Virginia Opossum	White-footed Mouse	Long-tailed Weasel
Masked Shrew	Norway Rat	American Mink
Northern Short-tailed Shrew	House Mouse	Northern River Otter
Hairy-tailed Mole	Southern Red-backed Vole	Striped Skunk
Star-nose Mole	Meadow Vole	Domestic Cat
Little Brown Bat	Woodland Vole	Bobcat
Northern Long-eared Bat	Common Muskrat	Minke Whale
Eastern Red Bat	Meadow Jumping Mouse	Fin Whale*
Hoary Bat	Common Porcupine	Blue Whale*
Silver-haired Bat	Domestic Dog	Humpback Whale*
Eastern Pipistrelle	Coyote	Northern [Black] Right Whale*
Big Brown Bat	Red Fox	White Whale (Beluga)
Eastern Cottontail	Common Gray Fox	Pantropical Spotted Dolphin
New England Cottontail	Harp Seal	Striped Dolphin
Snowshoe Hare	Ringed Seal	Atlantic White-sided Dolphin
Eastern Chipmunk	Harbor Seal	White-beaked Dolphin
Woodchuck	Hooded Seal	Long-finned Pilot Whale
Eastern Gray Squirrel	Bearded Seal	Harbor Porpoise
Red Squirrel	Common Raccoon	White-tailed Deer
Southern Flying Squirrel	Fisher	Moose
American Beavers	Ermine	

* Those species appearing on the current list of Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species in Mass. as authorized by M.G.L. c. 131 4(13A) & c. 131A 4

Source: MassWildlife's State Mammal List, www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwmam.htm

Corridors for wildlife migration

The areas in Salisbury that are best suited for wildlife migration are those parallel to the waterways; the Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean. Those areas are considered “priority and estimated habitats” of rare wildlife by Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Also, along the Merrimack River and Atlantic Ocean is where the majority of open space in the Town is located (NHESP data).

Table 4-6: Rare Animals in Salisbury

Taxonomic Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Rank	Federal Rank	Most Recent Observation
Bird	Charadrius melodus	Piping Plover	T	T	2002
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	E	T	1999
Bird	Sterna hirundo	Common Tern	SC		1985
Fish	Acipenser brevirostrum	Shortnose Sturgeon	E	E	1991
Fish	Acipenser oxyrinchus	Atlantic Sturgeon	E		1990

Source: NHESP Rare Plants & Animals (Salisbury)

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/towns.htm#salisbury>, last updated 08/28/2006

State Rank:

E=Endangered

T=Threatened

SC=Special Concern

Federal Rank:

LE=Listed Endangered

LT=Listed Threatened

PE=Proposed Endangered

PT=Proposed Threatened

C=Candidate

SC=Special Concern

PDL=Proposed for Delisting

Federal Rank:

[P] SAE/SAT=[Proposed] Listed Endangered or Threatened because of similarity of appearance

XE= Essential Experimental Population

XN= Nonessential Experimental Population

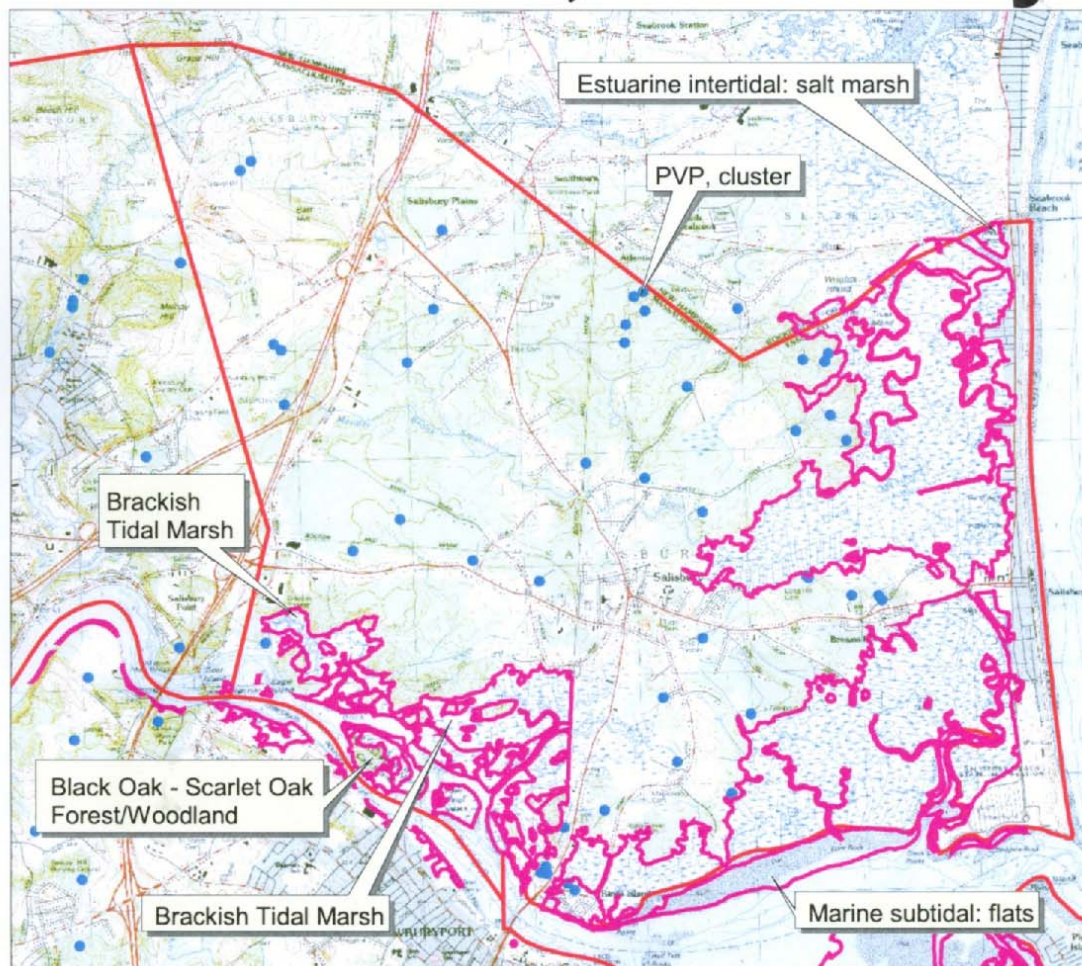
Null Value=Usually indicates that the taxon does not have any federal status. However, because of potential lag time between publication in the Federal Register & entry in the central database & refresh of the website, some taxa may have a status which does not yet appear.

Vernal pools

According to Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), Salisbury has no *certified* vernal pools (last updated **04/06/2006**) “The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program “certifies” the occurrence of vernal pools based on documentation of the pool's use by one or more groups of species that rely on vernal pools. Official certification provides a vernal pool, and up to 100 feet beyond its boundary in some cases, certain protection under several state and federal laws. Originally defined and protected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulations, Certified Vernal Pools now also receive protection under Title 5 of the Massachusetts Environmental Code, Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards which relate to Section 401, and the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act. These regulations help to eliminate direct impacts to certified vernal pools and to minimize indirect impacts. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is responsible for the implementation of these regulations (except for the Forest Cutting Practices Act, administered by the Department of Environmental Management), and has designated specific staff as vernal pool liaisons”
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/nhvernalcert.htm>.

The NHESP used aerial photographs to locate potential vernal pools in Salisbury. According to their research, there are 45 potential vernal pool sites within the Town (NHESP).

Natural Communities and PVPs, Salisbury



0.4 0 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 2 2.4 Miles

- NHESP Natural Communities 4-06
- Potential Vernal Pools, from aerial interpretation
- MA Town Boundaries



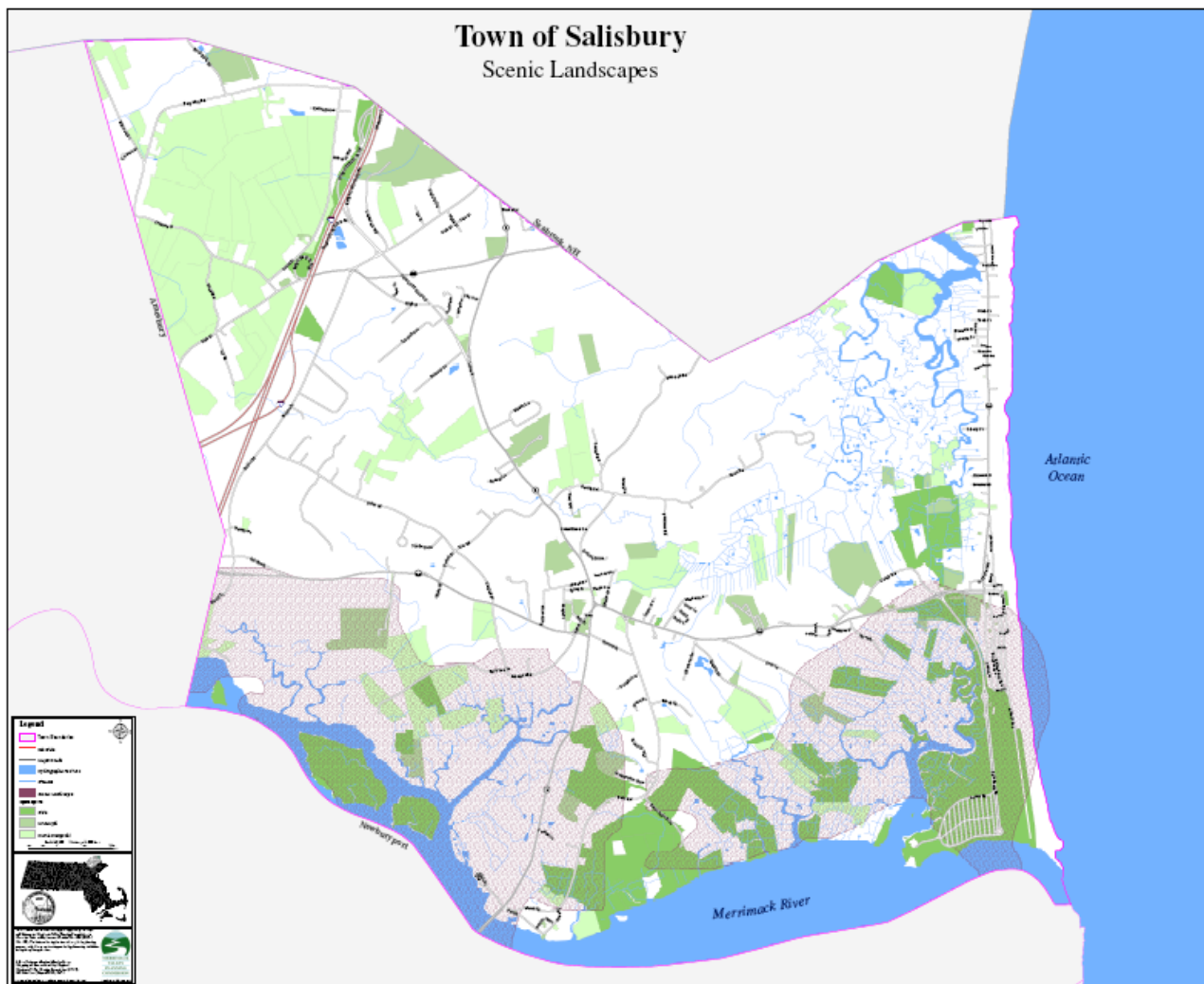
Data Source: MassGIS and NHESP
July 3, 2006

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

1. Scenic landscapes- DCR (formerly DEM) Scenic Landscape Inventory

Based on survey results, residents of Salisbury are most proud of the beach area; both the state reservation and the beach area in general. One of the survey questions (question 14) was “what area of Salisbury do you like to show out-of-town guests”? Most of the responses spoke of the beach, but other popular areas also included the Marsh, Salisbury Square, Rings Island, the Merrimack River, the farms in the Plains area of town, the parks and Salisbury Elementary School. According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the scenic landscapes inventory are comprised of almost the entire south end of the town; which is what abuts the Merrimack River.

Map 6: Scenic Landscapes



2. Major characteristics or unusual geological features

Sites in Salisbury which have major characteristics or unusual geological features include the Great Marsh and High Rock.

3. Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas

In the heyday of Salisbury Beach, the Salisbury Beach Center was where the action was. There were arcades, amusement rides and carnival attractions to draw in the tourists (Stevens). The Frolics Nightclub hosted many famous acts of the day such as teenage heartthrob Paul Anka, the McGuire Sisters and Liberace. The look of the Salisbury Beach Center has changed, and is now experiencing a renaissance.

In 2005, a Reconnaissance Report of the Heritage Landscapes in Salisbury was completed. This report was a group effort with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Essex National Heritage Commission and local town officials. The following data is from what the committees identified as heritage landscapes.

The Office of Planning and Development utilized the services of a consultant to complete a Historic Inventory of all historic properties. The Town recently received the completed inventory, along with recommendations. This Historic Inventory is needed prior to a property being considered for the State and National Register of Historic Places.

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list is a summary of all landscapes discussed at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Salisbury on November 8 and the follow-up fieldwork on November 8, 2004. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** Landscapes are grouped by type. The chart has two columns – the name of the resource and the location are in the first and notes about the resource are in the second.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction CR = Conservation Restriction
 ECGA = Essex County Greenbelt Association LHD = Local Historic District
 NR = National Register PR = Preservation Restriction
 TTOR = The Trustees of Reservations * = Priority Landscape

Agriculture	
Bartlett Farms * Main St. & Congress	On corner of Main and Congress there is Bartlett Farmstead and a sign stating that the farm was established in 1659. Elmknooll Farm and Cold Springs Farm. Part of the Salisbury Plains farms. Two APRs for Salisbury are now owned by Bartletts – one for 21 acres on farm on Folly Mill Road and one for 18 acres for farm at 99 Main Street.
Bolduc Farm 19 Ferry Road	Originally the Pike Farm with Samuel Pike House, an 18 th c. saltbox (ca. 1750) and barn. After Pike owned by Sawyers. Present owner, Bolduc is daughter of Sawyer. The two shingled houses and barn on two acres have been set aside – the rest will be a Chapter 40B affordable housing development.
Pettengill Farm Beach Road	Partially protected by Essex County Greenbelt Association. Historic name of the farm was Dawson.
Pettengill Farm * 45 Ferry Road	Ca. 1740 Georgian house, barn, greenhouses and fields. Was part of Pike Farm (see Bolduc Farm above) – divided and this part given to Pettengills. House historic name is William S. Pettengill.
Salisbury Plains Farms * Elmwood, Congress, Main St.	Elmwood and Congress Roads and Main Street: In the northwestern part of Salisbury is an area that retains its rural beginnings with contiguous farms forming the agricultural landscape. Some farms have given way to housing developments and are in marked contrast to the other pastoral views along these three roads. According to MHC survey forms 16 Congress Rd. is ca. 1880 Earl Reynolds House, 22 Congress Rd. is 1845 Federal style Samuel Morrill Farm with large barn. 98 Main St. is ca. 1750 Georgian style Dole Farm and 103 Main St. is ca. 1800 Evans Farm with barn and greenhouses.
Stevens Christmas Tree Farm 73 Murdock Road	Corner of Murdock and Elm St. Chapter 61 A (agricultural). Original land grant from 1640s. Same family continues to farm property. 19 th century house on Murdock Road, flat plains with evergreen nurseries.
Archaeological	
Ferry Lots Lane Cellar hole	The cellar hole of the bridge keeper's house who worked the floating bridge (reported to be the first floating bridge in America). A ferry from Newburyport went to Carr Island and the floating bridge led from Carr to the mainland at Ferry Lots Lane.

Plank Road Under Beach Road	Built in 1866 to cross salt marshes leading to beach. Beach Road was laid over the early planks as remnants have been found during road work. A local legend maintains that a ship that was supposed to go to Newburyport pulled in to Salisbury and hid gold under the plank road.
Shipwreck Sites Off shore	Some are visible at low tide and can be a tourist attraction. The Jennie Carter went down in 1894.
Burial Grounds	
Long Hill Cemetery Beach Road	Privately owned.
Maplewood Cemetery Ferry Road	Early Industrial period. Privately owned. Slate and marble – small rectangular lot close to road with low picket fence, wood picket arch marks entrance. Families interred here include Pettengills, Pikes, Coffins.
Old Burial Ground Beach & Ferry Rd.	Laid out in 1639, also called First Cemetery or “Colonial Burying Ground.” Retains old “wolf slabs” put over graves to prevent wolves from digging in burial ground. First five ministers buried here. Stones have been documented.
Small Pox Cemetery*	In woods on private property. Little known to anyone in town. Some markers reportedly remain.
True Cemetery Lafayette Rd.	At Toll Road.
Civic	
Salisbury Square * Lafayette, Elm, Beach sts.	Town center. Common (1.5 acre Town Green) with commercial and institutional properties. East Parish, Parsonage at Minister’s Corner (now owned by Historical Society). Town Hall, Pike School, an early 18 th century house with a saltbox roof.
Industrial	
Potlid Square Elm Street	So named because residents are reported to have melted pots at this location to make bullets for the American Revolution.
Wonder Potato Chip Factory Beach Road	1933-1983. Hardens had family run business where they made potato chips which were distributed to grocery stores until World War II and then sold at their factory only. The chips were cooked in large coke-fired cauldrons.

Institutional	
East Parish 8 Lafayette Rd.	In Salisbury Square. Established in 1638. Joined with Methodist Society in 1833 and built present church building in 1834. Any town resident can pay \$1 to be a member and participate in meetings run by the moderator in which decisions are made, managing the land owned by the East Parish. The Parsonage at Minister's Corner at the intersection of Route 110 (Elm St) and Salisbury Square is where the minister of the East Parish lived until 2001 when the house was sold to the Historical Society.
Pike School 17 Bridge Rd.	On Common. Traditional mid 19 th century gable front Greek Revival schoolhouse, later used as central fire station. Restored to schoolhouse appearance with two single doors in gable front after removal of large fire apparatus doors.
Star of the Sea Chapel 145 North End Blvd.	1896. Shingle-Style Roman Catholic Chapel at the beach. (Main church in town on corner of Beach and Ferry Sts.).
Natural Features	
Back River	Back channel of the Merrimack River.
Marshland	Along river, barrier beach and ocean. Friedenfeis Rd. extends into marsh from Bridge Rd. Ditches in marshes were dug during the Depression to control mosquitoes. Ferry Road – crosses Mill Creek close to Rings Island. There are reported abutments at the opening of Mill Creek to the Merrimack, which are 5 to 6 feet under the current marsh level. Clamming areas, wild cranberries, phragmites taking over. Varied environment with ocean, marsh, river and upland and all of the birds, fish and vegetation that go with each environment.
Marshland at Town Creek	View from MBTA north-south right-of-way.
Merrimack River	Southern boundary of Salisbury. Views of river from Morrill's Rock. Mouth of river where it empties into Atlantic Ocean off coast of Salisbury.
Rocks	High Rock – in river. Badgers Rock, so called because fishermen think it resembles the back of a swimming badger. Located in Merrimack near mouth, a place where seals gather. Black Rock – at the end of the barrier beach.
Salisbury Beach	Barrier beach – 3.5 miles long facing the Atlantic Ocean. Beachfront owned by State as part of Salisbury State Reservation. The center beach area north of the State Reservation was formerly a large amusement park including a wooden roller coaster, a park devoted to kiddie rides, games of chance and independently owned concession stands and stores. At this time, some beach access points are unknown or inaccessible. See Salisbury Beach in Residential section of chart.
Salt Hay Fields & Marshes Off Beach Road	Salt marsh hay is harvested seasonally on the south side of Beach Road in the marshes west of the Salisbury State Reservation entrance.

<i>Smallpox Brook</i>	At one time, Smallpox Brook was a favored freshwater fishing area stocked by the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Unfortunately, in recent years, beavers have dammed this creek, stopping the natural flow and ruining the trout fishing for which it was well known locally.
<i>Tidal Creeks</i>	Town Creek, Black Rock Creek, Morrill Creek.
Open Space / Recreation	
<i>Carr Island</i>	State owned.
<i>Ram Island</i>	Ram Island State Wildlife Management Area. State owned.
<i>Salisbury Beach State Reservation</i>	520 acre park including barrier beach, riverfront, saltmarsh, Ben Butler's Toothpick (see entry under transportation), camping area and picnic ground. State owned since 1930s. BSLA design implemented by WPA and CCC. All reworked in 1990s with only general layout of early park remaining.
Residential (Neighborhoods)	
<i>Beach Grove Cabins</i> Beach Road	Ca. 1950, administration building and 20 rental cabins on road to Salisbury Beach. Set among mature pines. Important part of development pattern of summer resort community. NR eligible.
<i>Rings Island *</i>	South side of Merrimack – residential with some marine related industrial properties. Sea captains houses. 18 th and 19 th century Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival – capes, most on granite foundations, most with wood sheathing. Marsh land around houses looking across Merrimack River to Plum Island (east) and Newburyport (south). Hedges, low picket fences, views are open. A few garages and boat houses. 1892 Community House with Union Chapel Museum building sign says "Rings Island Water District." In the early 20 th century Edna St. Vincent Millay lived in the 1680 Jonathan Dole House at 5 3 rd Street. Town landing rebuilt at 1 st and 2 nd street (once the end of Ferry Street). Area named for Robert Ring who received first land grant here in 1642.
<i>Salisbury Beach</i>	Summer resort area. South End. The amusement park was an important part of the beach attraction. One of first 'Dodge-em' rides here, and early Ferris wheel and wooden roller coaster. Used to have diving horses and bicyclists on a high rope as attractions. Steamboats used to come to the beach. Some of the pilings remain. Black Rocks Hotel, a destination hotel, was at the south end. Well known dance hall was the 5 O'clock Club which is gone. Commercial part of Salisbury Beach is threatened – giving way to condos. Prior to 1850 only day trippers visit beach, then tents and finally cottages begin to be built in 1864. Land was leased by Salisbury Commoners and by 1870 there were 50 cottages and by 1888 150 cottages on 300 leased lots. In 1903 Edward Payson Shaw, proprietor of Cushing Hotel and narrow gauge railroad (Seaside Railroad) purchased east end of beach from the Commoners to develop transportation and places to stay – streetcar to beach followed by automobiles. See Salisbury Beach in Natural section of chart.

<i>Sweet Apple Tree Lane</i>	Morrill's Creek and Morrill's Rock. 18 th or early 19 th century Cape on property. Excellent views of Merrimack River. Can see Ben Butler's Toothpick in an eastern direction. Marshland, clamflats of hard packed sand. Now State owned, Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Police. Had been a potential site for nuclear power plant – as Mass Electric tried to accumulate the land there was one land owner who held out and when issues of sensitivity of area came up it was abandoned by Mass. Electric and the plant was built at Seabrook.
Transportation <i>Bridges, Landings, Roads</i>	
<i>Beach Access</i>	Public access to beach. Some access points are marked by boardwalks – others are obstructed by private encroachment. Also referred to as rights-of way.
<i>Ben Butler's Toothpick *</i> State Reservation	Pyramidal shaped navigational marker dating from the late 19 th century. Built at the end of a jetty and named after Civil War general. Provided warning to approaching boats. High granite block and mortar base with wood stick framing pyramidal structure on top.
<i>Ferry Landings</i>	Rings Island, Carr Island. Town landing at Rings Island (was the landing at the end of Ferry Road – now Second Street) recently rebuilt.
<i>Railroad beds</i>	North-south line and east-west line. MBTA north-south rail bed has excellent views of Town Creek and surrounding marshland. Line to Seabrook. Rails have been removed. The east-west trail connecting with Amesbury has been improved in part.
<i>Trolley Line</i>	Right of way of the early 20 th century streetcar to the beach. Two trolley lines converged at the beach – one from the north and one from the west.

4. Unique Environments

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) created two biodiversity conservation planning projects. The first, BioMap, completed in 2001, was to identify and delineate the most important areas for the long-term viability of terrestrial, wetland, and estuarine elements of biodiversity. The second, Living Waters, completed in 2003, was to identify and delineate the rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds that are important for freshwater diversity (Core Habitats of Salisbury, 2004).

BioMap Project: Core Habitat Summaries

The BioMap Project identified six Core Habitats in Salisbury; as listed below. A Core Habitat is defined by NHESP as an area that represent habitat for the state's most viable rare plant and animal populations and include exemplary natural communities and aquatic habitats.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 1

This Core Habitat encompasses a large area of Salt Marsh and tidal creeks landward of Salisbury Beach and immediately south of the New Hampshire border. These areas provide important breeding and wintering habitats for many different bird species. Almost none of this area is protected as conservation land.

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat is part of a complex that includes the 17,000 acres of Estuarine Intertidal Salt Marsh of the Parker River. This is the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England. The Salt Marsh community type is a graminoid-dominated, tidally flooded coastal community with several vegetative zones. Salt Marshes form in areas subject to oceanic tides, but sheltered from wave energy. Here the size of the Salt Marsh alone assures an abundance of microhabitats and mix of conditions that are important for plants and animals alike. This Salt Marsh is surrounded by many other high-quality natural communities including barrier beaches and the entire array of tidal marshes and flats.

Vertebrates

The tidal creeks of this Core Habitat provide important wintering habitat for Black Ducks and other waterfowl. This is one of the few sites in the state where small colonies of Common Terns nest in salt marshes. The salt marsh is also breeding habitat for Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Conservation efforts should focus on protecting undeveloped uplands that border the western edges of the salt marsh and creeks, as well as protecting the eastern edges of these marshes from draining and filling or from runoff from the densely developed portions of Salisbury Beach.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 2

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat is part of a complex that includes the 17,000 acres of Estuarine Intertidal Salt Marsh of the Parker River. This is the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England. The Salt Marsh community type is a graminoid-dominated, tidally flooded coastal community with several vegetative zones. Salt Marshes form in areas subject to oceanic tides, but sheltered from wave energy. Here the size of the Salt Marsh alone assures an abundance of microhabitats and mix of conditions that are important for plants and animals alike. This Salt Marsh is surrounded by many other high-quality natural communities including barrier beaches and the entire array of tidal marshes and flats.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 3

This 11-mile reach of the lower Merrimack River, with its bordering wetlands and uplands, runs through Groveland, Haverhill, West Newbury, Merrimac, Amesbury, Newburyport and Salisbury. It includes Ram, Carr, Eagle, and Deer Islands in Salisbury, and wetlands and tidal creeks at Boggy Meadows and Town Creek. Despite development crowding the river in many places, this section of the river supports a rich diversity of rare species and uncommon natural communities. Small River Floodplain Forests and Freshwater Tidal Marshes are found along the river's edge above where salt water reaches. Here these communities host several rare plants and invertebrate wildlife species. Perhaps the most spectacular rare animal living in this Core is the Bald Eagle, which fishes and overwinters along the Lower Merrimack. Protecting undeveloped land anywhere in this Core Habitat, or in adjacent Supporting Natural Landscape, is vital given there is so little undeveloped land left in the area. Protecting land upstream along the river's tributaries will also help improve the quality of water flowing into the Merrimack River and will help ensure the long-term viability of this exceptional natural landscape.

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat contains one of the eight remaining, reasonably good-quality, Small River Floodplain Forests in the state. This type of Floodplain Forest develops along small rivers and on shores of islands in the Merrimack River, and differs from Major-River Floodplain Forests in that Small –River Floodplain Forests are subject to a smaller volume of floodwater and, therefore, to less scouring by the water. Thus Small-River Floodplain Forest occurs with a high-quality and very diverse Freshwater Tidal Marsh. Freshwater Tidal Marshes are flooded by tides twice a day, but as they are located just upstream of the edge of saltwater, the tides are of freshwater, not salt.

Freshwater Tidal Marshes are globally rare and often support rare and unusual plants. Downriver, this Core Habitat is also part of a complex that includes the 17,000 acres of Estuarine Intertidal Salt Marsh of the Parker River. This is the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England. The Salt Marsh community type is a graminoid-dominated, tidally flooded coastal community with several vegetative zones. Salt Marshes form in areas subject to oceanic tides, but sheltered from wave energy. Here the size of the Salt Marsh alone assures an abundance of microhabitats and mix of conditions that are important for plants and animals alike.

Plants

This Core Habitat contains several rare plant species that are adapted to brackish-to-freshwater rivershore conditions, including two globally rare species, Eaton's Beggar-Ticks and Estuary Pipewort.

Invertebrates

This Core Habitat includes a stretch of the Merrimack River in Amesbury, West Newbury, and Newburyport that is habitat for the New England Siltsnail. This rare snail, which is endemic to New England, inhabits brackish marshes at the mouths of the Indian River, Presbus Creek, Goodwin Creek and the Artichoke River. These four marshes, along with a fifth along the north shore of the Merrimack in Amesbury, provide multiple habitats connected by the river, all of which are apparently currently unprotected.

Vertebrates

The lower Merrimack River and forests along its edges provide some of the most important feeding and roosting habitat for wintering and non-breeding Bald Eagles in the state. As many as 11 individual eagles have been seen at one time along a section of the river in Newburyport. As regional Bald Eagle populations continue to recover, eagles are likely to nest along with stretch of the Merrimack River in the future if sufficient forested riparian habitat is preserved along its banks.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 5

This Core Habitat encompasses the broad estuary at the mouth of the Merrimack River, as well as the salt marshes behind the barrier beaches at the north end of Plum Island and the south end of Salisbury Beach. These marshes are part of the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England. The Core Habitat also includes numerous islands, tidal creeks, and extensive tidal flats, most notably the Joppa Flats. Together these valuable habitats support a wide variety of birds,

including overwintering of migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors. The shorelines within this Core Habitat are also important for their rare plant populations, including the state's largest population of Seabeach Dock. Permanent protection of this critical biological site is needed.

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat is part of a complex that includes the 17,000 acres of Estuarine Intertidal Salt Marsh of the Parker River. This is the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England. The Salt Marsh community type is a graminoid-dominated, tidally flooded coastal community with several vegetative zones. Salt Marshes form in areas subject to oceanic tides, but sheltered from wave energy. Here the size of the Salt Marsh alone assures an abundance of microhabitats and mix of conditions that are important for plants and animals alike. This Salt Marsh is surrounded by many other high-quality natural communities including barrier beaches and the entire array of tidal marshes and flats.

Plants

Shoreline areas of this Core Habitat contain the largest population of Seabeach Dock in Massachusetts, as well as one of the best populations of Seabeach Needlegrass.

Vertebrates

The Merrimack River estuary and its associated tidal creeks and salt marshes provide important wintering and migration habitat for many species of waterfowl, especially black ducks and many diving ducks. The extensive tidal flats are important habitats for migrating shorebirds. King Rails have been documented during the breeding season in the emergent marshes at Woodbridge Island. The salt marshes in Salisbury represent one of the few places in the state where small colonies of salt marsh-nesting Common Terns occur. These marshes provide breeding habitat for Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and may also provide migration and wintering habitat for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harries, as well as for two species of arctic-nesting raptors, the Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk. The conservation need here is the permanent protection of these salt marshes, tidal creeks, and small island, as well as the undeveloped uplands that border them and the Merrimack River.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 6

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat is part of a complex that contains a good example of the Marine Intertidal Flats community type. Marine Intertidal Flats are found in areas protected from intense wave action. Although many have little to no vegetation, they are physically and biologically linked to other coastal marine systems.

CORE HABITAT BIOMAP 7

Natural Communities

This Core Habitat is part of a complex that includes the 17,000 acres of Estuarine Intertidal Salt Marsh of the Parker River. This is the largest contiguous acreage of Salt Marsh in New England.

The Salt Marsh community type is a graminoid-dominated, tidally flooded coastal community with several vegetative zones. Salt Marshes form in areas subject to oceanic tides, but sheltered from wave energy. Here the size of the Salt Marsh alone assures an abundance of microhabitats and mix of conditions that are important for plants and animals alike. This Salt Marsh is surrounded by many other high-quality natural communities including barrier beaches and the entire array of tidal marshes and flats.

Living Waters Project: Core Habitat Summaries

CORE HABITAT LIVING WATERS 076

This Core Habitat provides important river habitat for the state-Endangered Atlantic Sturgeon. This large, prehistoric-looking fish uses this section of the Merrimack River from May to October. The state-and federally Endangered Shortnose Sturgeon can also be found here after it has spawned further upstream.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

“The purpose of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Program is to preserve, restore, and enhance critical environmental resources and resource areas of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The goals of the program are to identify and designate these ecological areas, to increase the level of protection for ACECs, and to facilitate and support the stewardship of ACECs” (ACEC Program-<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/acecProgram.htm>). There are no lands identified as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in Salisbury. According to the ACEC Coastal Coordinator, the Parker River/Essex Bay ACEC is located in Newbury, Essex, Ipswich, Rowley and Gloucester and even though the ACEC designation does not extend in to Salisbury, the resources of the Parker River/Essex Bay do extend in to Salisbury.

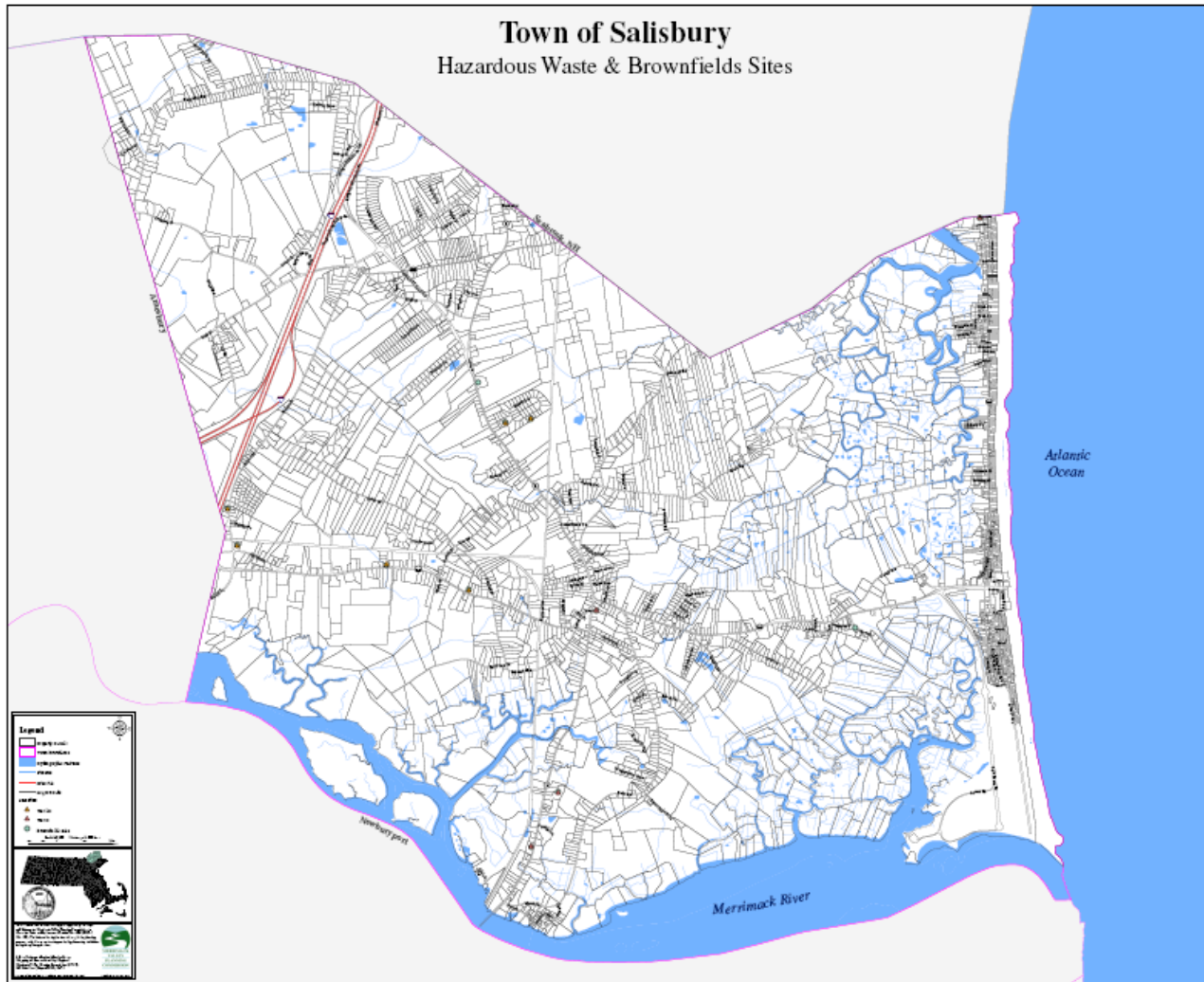
G. Environmental Challenges

Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites-MassGIS-21E Sites

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines brownfields as “With certain legal exclusions and additions, the term ‘brownfield site’ means real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant” (U.S. EPA-<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/glossary.htm#brow>). According to the MassGIS data, there are 12 brownfield sites located in Salisbury, with most of the sites running along the main roads of the Town.

Chapter 21E is Massachusetts’ cleanup law, which regulates how the cleanup is conducted, as well as the professionals that are allowed to conduct the cleanup. There are currently 10 sites that are considered to be Chapter 21E, also according to MassGIS.

Map 7: Hazardous Waste



Landfills

The Town of Salisbury no longer has an active landfill site; all trash is hauled by private companies and taken to sites outside of the Town. The Town Landfill has been closed and capped since late 1999/early 2000. The Town will most likely never need to have its own landfill as private collection has been successful thus far. The Town does have an active drop-off recycling center, which has been operating since the Town received a grant for the roll-offs in 1992. The Town began offering composting in 1989; the State sanctioned it in 1993 (Kathy Waelter, DPW, 4/3/06). In 2005, the recycling center received 30.43 tons of newspaper, 18.83 tons of commingled containers, and 19.14 tons of scrap metal/white goods, as well as 1,215 tons of grass, leaves and branches from residences and 1,739 of Christmas trees. (Mass. DEP 2005 Municipal Recycling Data Sheet). Recycling is not mandatory for residents or businesses. Once the Town stopped paying for trash collection, the private recycling decreased drastically.

Erosion

Most of the erosion that occurs in Salisbury is located in the beach area, namely the southern part of the beach and sections of North End Boulevard. Erosion controls that are allowed are dune grass and snow fencing, rocks are not allowed.

Chronic Flooding

There is a serious flooding problem in neighborhoods located near the Blackwater River marshes at the north end of Salisbury Beach. The flooding is a consequence of rebuilding the Route 286 bridge over the river. That work eliminated a tidal restriction at the previous bridge, allowing increased flow into the marsh. During lunar high tides and coastal storms several streets are flooded and become impassable. The Town has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain funding to design and construct a dike system to protect the area against future flooding.

Most flooding in Salisbury occurs in the beach center, or where dunes are washed out, limiting the amount of protection they are able to provide during coastal storms. This is a problem at the southern end of the beach. Chronic flooding also occurs on Bridge Road, where the wetlands and marshes flood when the Merrimack River swells. As more development occurs, encroaching on the wetlands, there will be an increase in flooding.

Chronic flooding also occurs in other areas of Town due to insufficient/blocked pipes and culverts. On Jak-len Drive, where the pipes are undersized, money is coming from FEMA to upgrade the pipes. On Folly Mill Road, flooding is related to culvert issues and undersized pipes. Finally, the other areas are on Mudnock Road, Lewis Avenue, Florence Avenue and 10th and 11th Streets.

During the 2006 Mother's Day Storm and the 2007 Patriot's Day Storm, flooding occurred on Bridge Road due to the high tides and storm conditions; both of which compromised an existing railroad bridge which crossed Town Creek. Studies are underway to further determine the causes and solutions to this problem.

The Town is looking in to enrolling in the Community Rating System (CRS) for flooding in order to reduce the flood insurance rates. This system will quantify all efforts of the Town to mitigate for floods, including, but not limited to, pilings, education, lessening or pavement, policies, etc. Points are awarded according to how many efforts are accomplished, thus allowing lower rates for residents on their homeowners' insurance.

Sedimentation

Sedimentation occurs because of outfalls in drain lines, the sedimentation fills in swales and then needs to be dredged out. There is a proposal for mosquito control to dredge throughout the Town.

Ground & Surface Water Pollution

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), there are some drainage discharge points in Salisbury in which there is the potential for water pollution. There are some groundwater issues, but are very minor and are monitored during stormwater management. The pollution comes from roadway runoff as well as from illicit discharges from septic systems, but are being monitored and managed.

SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

With the ever increasing amount of overweight people, including children, the need for more active recreation opportunities has also increased. According to the Centers for Disease Control, data from NHANES I (1971–1974) to NHANES 2003–2004 show increases in “overweight” among all age groups:

- Among preschool-aged children, aged 2–5 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5.0% to 13.9%.
- Among school-aged children, aged 6–11 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 4.0% to 18.8%.
- Among school-aged adolescents, aged 12–19 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 6.1% to 17.4% (Overweight and Obesity: Overweight Prevalence-CDC).

Overweight is defined as a BMI at or above the 95th percentile for children of the same age and sex. This definition is based on the 2000 CDC Growth Charts for the United States (Overweight and Obesity: Defining Overweight-CDC).

Recreation

Fishing

The Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean, both inshore and offshore, are four star fishing destinations for striped bass, bluefish, cod, haddock, flounder, and tuna. Party boats are available for deep sea fishing at Bridge Marina on the Merrimack.

There is excellent access for fishing at the Salisbury Beach State Reservation, both for boaters and walk-in fishermen, and ample parking for cars with boat trailers. There also is good fishing access at the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife area off Sweet Apple Tree Lane and at the railroad bridge. The Harbor Commission will enhance fishing access at the MBTA-owned site on the river at Friedenfels St. Because of conflicts with boaters, sightseers and nearby residents, the Harbor Commission does not support fishing from the Town Pier.

Boating

The Town’s location on the Atlantic Ocean and along the northerly bank of the Merrimack River makes boating a key activity. The Town hosts three significant privately-owned marinas on the Merrimack and the Town operates the Town Pier which includes parking, a ramp for small boats, dinghy docks and docking facilities. The Town Harbor Commission issued approximately 560 Waterways Permits for boats moored or docked in Salisbury waters during the summer of 2006. The Harbor Commission is working on a Harbor Management Plan to improve public access to the river to support additional moorings and to improve access for canoes and kayaks.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority gave the Harbor Commission a 99-year lease on a riverfront lot off Friedenfels St. that the Harbor Commission plans to develop for dinghy docks that will permit access to additional moorings upriver from the railroad bridge and offer improved access for canoes and kayaks to the beautiful natural areas along the Merrimack’s back channel. The Commission may also develop a canoe and kayak launching ramp and a fishing float or pier at this location. Planning for future use is now underway.

There is a substantial public boat ramp at the Salisbury Beach State Reservation that provides easy access to the Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean

Rail Trail and Bike Lanes

Development of a network of rail trails and bike lanes in Salisbury is a major Town-wide Action Plan Priority in the Town's Community Development Plan which was completed in June 2004.

The Town's Planning Department, Department of Public Works and a large cadre of local and regional volunteers have been working hard on the rail trail project in recent years. The goal is to establish a network of rail trails and bike lanes linking the town with Amesbury to the west, Newburyport to the south and Seabrook, New Hampshire to the north and stretching east to Salisbury Beach and the State Reservation. The keys the network are the abandoned Old Eastern Railroad main line that runs 3.7 miles from the Merrimack River to the New Hampshire Border and the Salisbury Branch line that runs 1.7 miles from the town center at Salisbury Square to the Salisbury/Amesbury town line. The Town has acquired control of all of the right of way, except for one section of the Salisbury Branch as to which a private landowner has indicated a willingness to grant a trail easement. The Town has also asked Mass Highway to designate bike lanes on 2 miles of Route 1A (Beach Road) from Salisbury Square to Salisbury Beach and on 1.4 miles of the Salisbury Beach State Reservation access road.

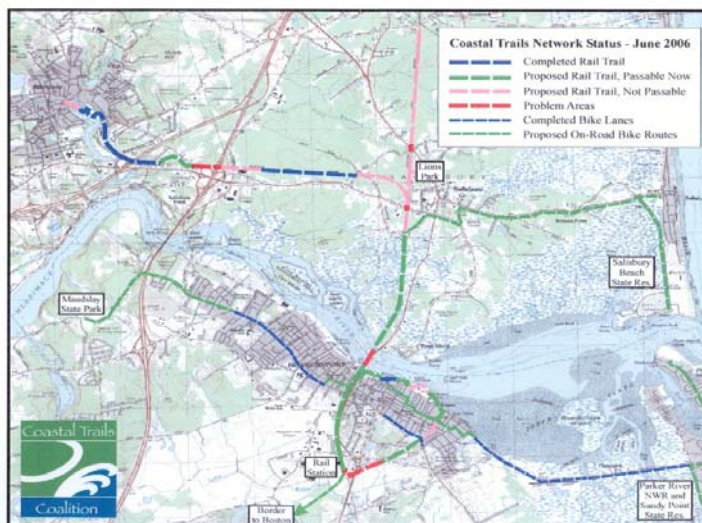
The Town envisions its rail trails and bike lanes as part of a larger Coastal Trails Network consisting of 30 miles of linked trails and bike lanes in Salisbury, Amesbury, Newburyport and Newbury. The four towns are working with Coastal Trails Coalition, a local non-profit focused on development of the trails, to fully develop the network. (See map.)

Working with the Coastal Trails Coalition and with substantial help and support from Timberland Corporation, the Essex National Heritage Commission, and local volunteers, Town has already improved 0.7 miles of the Salisbury Branch and named the trail the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail. The Town next plans to extend the trail to Lion's Park, the Town's principal recreational facility. The extension will connect the park to neighborhoods to the west and allow children and families to travel to the park on foot or by bike for baseball, softball and tennis and to use the playground. It will also give residents of Salisbury Square and children using the Lower Merrimack Valley Boys and Girls Club easy access to the trail. The Town has applied for a Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program grant to fund this extension. The Coastal Trails Coalition has applied for additional funds to the Fields Pond Foundation which supported earlier construction on the trail.

The Town has been awarded funding as part of the regional Transportation Improvement Plan to develop a rail trail on 1.4 miles of the Old Eastern main line right of way from the Merrimack River to Mudnock Road. This trail will be called the Old Eastern Marsh Trail. The Town will be requesting proposals for preliminary design of this section of rail trail during early 2007.

The Town's overall plans for development of the network of rail trails and bike lanes are set forth in the Salisbury Rail Trail Project Chart attached as Appendix A.

Coastal Trails Network



Source: Coastal Trails Coalition, June 2006

Baseball/Softball

The youths of Salisbury compete in a youth baseball and softball inter-league, with teams for all ages and skill levels from Little League to the “majors”. The towns involved in this inter-league are Salisbury, Byfield-Newbury, Rowley, Georgetown and Merrimac (<http://www.salisburymass.com/>).

Beach Baseball Field



Soccer

There is substantial interest in Youth Soccer in Salisbury, but no full-size fields are available in town. Developing soccer fields in Town is an area of significant need as many Salisbury children travel to other towns in order to participate in this popular sport.

Camps

The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Merrimack Valley provides a summer camp for those ages 6 to 16; it is offered for young people of Salisbury and surrounding towns, who join the Boys & Girls Club. The “Summer Adventure Program” operates from the end of June to September 1 and is held

Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (“Summer Program offered to area Kids” *The Daily News*, 6/27/05, A5).

Other Recreational Activities available in Salisbury include:

- Winner’s Circle Running Club
- Pop-Warner Football-Triton
- Soccer league
- Ring’s Island Rowing Club

Beach Access

Access to the Beach is available through the State Reservation as well as through approximately 14 public access points. These access points do not have legal public parking areas.

Table 5-1: Active Town-Owned Recreational Sites

Name	Lions Park	New Elementary School	Memorial School	Beach Road Field	Skateboard Park
Location	End of Lions Way	100 Lafayette Road	Maple Street	Route 1A (Beach Road)	380 Beach Road
Facilities Include	2 tennis courts	2 Full Size Basketball Courts	1 Full Size Basketball Court	1 Little League Field	Skateboard Activities
	Tot low play area (5-12 y.o.)	1 Half Size Basketball Court	2 Half Size Basketball Courts		
	Swing sets	1 Little League Field	1 Little League Field		
	Pavilion w/ picnic tables	1 Soccer Field	1 Pony League Field		
	Restrooms				
	Softball Field				
	Baseball Field				
	Basketball Court				
	Concession Stand				

Source: www.salisbury-ma.com/PWParkRecreation.html

The following table shows the recreational opportunities available in Salisbury that are adjacent to the Merrimack River. These sites are also listed in other tables that follow; but it is important to see what is actually next to the river.

Table 5-2: Recreational Facilities in Salisbury along the Merrimack River

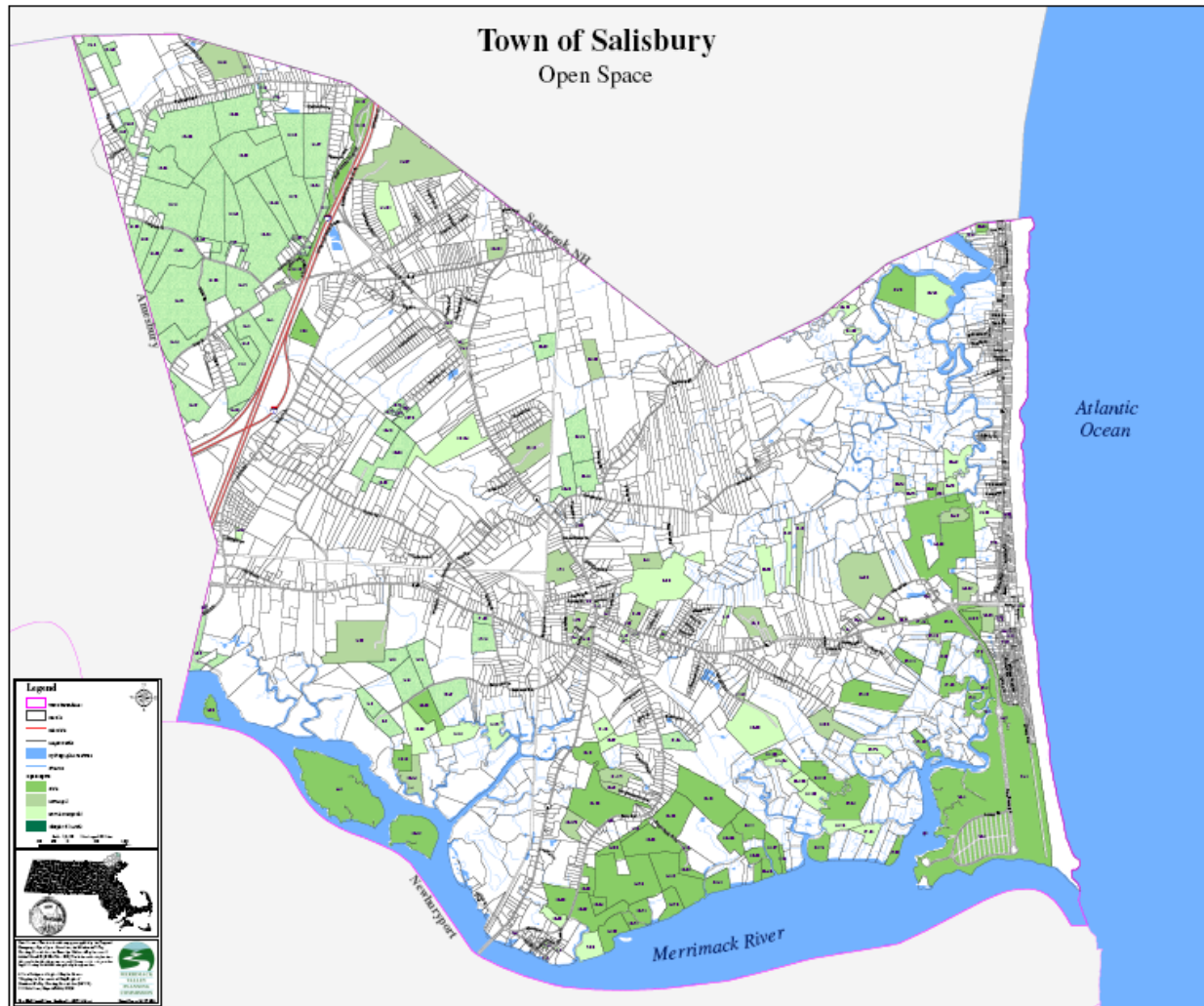
Site Name	Fee Owner	Acres	Recreation Opportunity Offered
Salisbury Beach State Reservation	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	520	BL,CL,F,C,W/J,B,S,P,O
Isaac Sprague WS Carr Island	Dept. of Fish & Game	70	F,H,P,O
Ram Island WS	Dept. of Fish & Game	26	F,H,P,O
Eagle Island	Dept. of Fish & Game	4.8	F,H,P,O
Fish & Wildlife Land	Fish & Wildlife	15 (multi)	F,H,P,O
Greenbelt Mendelson Marsh	Private	12	H,P,O
Salisbury Town Wharf	Town of Salisbury	0.4	BL, CL

Source: Merrimack Comprehensive Watershed Assessment, EOE, 2001

Key to Recreation Opportunity: BL=Boat Launch CL=Canoe Launch F=Fishing H=Hiking C=Camping S=Swimming W/J=Walking/Jogging P=Picnicking SF=Sports Facilities X-C=Skiing O=Other

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) created standards for field dimensions for different recreational uses, although they state that their standards are the minimums needed. The standards, as revised in 1996, are included in the Appendix.

Map 8: Inventory of Open Space



Legend:

Public Access: L=Limited	X=Unknown	PUB=Public
P\$=Private (public welcome/fee)	P= Private	N= None
Primary Use: R= Recreation (facilities based)		
C= Conservation (non-facilities based activities)	B= Recreation & Conservation	
H= Historic/Cultural	A= Agriculture	W= Water Supply Protection
S= Scenic	O= Other	X= Unknown
Protection Level: IP= In perpetuity T= Temporary		L= Limited
N= None	X= Unknown	

A. Private Parcels

Chapter 61 lands are useful as they benefit the private landowner in lessening their tax burden, so long as the proper use is adhered to. It is important to remember though that this land is not protected in perpetuity and can be taken out of Chapter 61 by the decision of the owner. Municipalities have the “right of first refusal” to purchase the land, but if a municipality declines, the land is then placed on the open market, although there are tax issues which the owner must deal with. Chapter 61 lands pertain to forests, 61A to agricultural land, and 61B to recreation land. Currently, there is no Chapter 61B land in Salisbury.

Table 5-3: Parcels in Chapter 61 Designation

Map-Lot	Location	Acres	Ch. 61 Type	Protection Level	Public Access	Land Use Code
22-19	9 Gerrish Rd.	14.10	61	T	N	601
11-1	99 Main St.	15.00	61A	T	N	712
11-2	107 Main St.	5.99	61A	T	N	712
11-23	Congress St.	9.00	61A	T	N	712
11-3	111 Main St.	2.75	61A	T	N	712
12-32	8 Congress St.	9.00	61A	T	N	712
13-117	32 Congress St.	3.16	61A	T	N	712
13-23	24 Elmwood St.	7.42	61A	T	N	712
13-5	30 Elmwood St.	0.50	61A	T	N	712
22-32	5 Seabrook Rd.	1.00	61A	T	N	712
12-32	8 Congress St.	10.00	61A	T	N	713
13-115	Elmwood St.	3.15	61A	T	N	713
13-118	55 Elmwood St.	3.90	61A	T	N	713
13-2	60 Elmwood St.	12.35	61A	T	N	713
13-51	4 Folly Mill Rd.	20.90	61A	T	N	713
12-26	Congress St.	1.00	61A	T	N	714
11-23	Congress St.	6.00	61A	T	N	716
11-24	41 Congress St.	11.20	61A	T	N	716
11-28	Congress St.	13.75	61A	T	N	716
11-31	106 Main St.	19.85	61A	T	N	716
12-22	Off Locust St.	21.55	61A	T	N	716
12-26	Congress St.	9.00	61A	T	N	716
12-28	16 Congress St.	6.00	61A	T	N	716
12-30	14 Congress St.	2.75	61A	T	N	716
12-45	18 Locust St.	1.50	61A	T	N	716
12-46	16 Locust St.	0.71	61A	T	N	716
13-92	40 Congress St.	28.59	61A	T	N	716
10-42	2 Red Ridge Rd.	4.20	61A	T	N	717
10-42	2 Red Ridge Rd.	21.80	61A	T	N	718
10-45	Baker Rd.	3.20	61A	T	N	718
11-17	145 Main St.	15.00	61A	T	N	718
11-25	47 Congress St.	8.89	61A	T	N	718
11-26	53 Congress St.	4.80	61A	T	N	718
12-24	60 Folly Mill Rd.	9.00	61A	T	N	718
12-26	Congress St.	8.00	61A	T	N	718
13-92	40 Congress St.	15.00	61A	T	N	718
18-73	29 Bayberry Ln.	0.46	61A	T	N	718
18-74	31 Bayberry Ln.	7.24	61A	T	N	718
18-75	33 Bayberry Ln.	0.62	61A	T	N	718
18-77	34 Bayberry Ln.	0.46	61A	T	N	718
18-79	30 Bayberry Ln.	1.38	61A	T	N	718
18-96	Small Pox Rd.	4.00	61A	T	N	718
22-32	5 Seabrook Rd.	1.00	61A	T	N	718
22-33	Seabrook Rd.	18.00	61A	T	N	718
9-54	13 Merrill St.	17.62	61A	T	N	718

Map-Lot	Location	Acres	Ch. 61 Type	Protection Level	Public Access	Land Use Code
10-42	2 Red Ridge Rd.	0.11	61A	T	N	720
11-21	124 Main St.	19.00	61A	T	N	720
11-22	Mingo Rd.	59.75	61A	T	N	720
11-34	Joy Rd.	2.00	61A	T	N	720
11-4	115 Main St.	7.46	61A	T	N	720
12-25	22 Congress St.	61.88	61A	T	N	720
12-34	Locust St.	20.50	61A	T	N	720
12-35	29 Locust St.	2.75	61A	T	N	720
12-36	39 Locust St.	4.59	61A	T	N	720
17-87	23 Ferry Lots Ln.	4.53	61A	T	N	720
17-92	73 Mudnock Rd.	10.25	61A	T	N	720
17-93	75 Elm St.	3.32	61A	T	N	720
18-96	Small Pox Rd.	2.00	61A	T	N	720
9-11	Ferry Lots Ln.	17.70	61A	T	N	720
9-12	Ferry Lots Ln.	4.85	61A	T	N	720
9-13	Ferry Lots Ln.	12.10	61A	T	N	720
9-3	Ferry Lots Ln.	2.00	61A	T	N	720
11-1	99 Main St.	3.00	61A	T	N	722
11-2	107 Main St.	21.00	61A	T	N	722
11-23	Congress St.	9.00	61A	T	N	722
11-3	111 Main St.	4.00	61A	T	N	722
12-32	8 Congress St.	30.00	61A	T	N	722
12-35	29 Locust St.	33.70	61A	T	N	722
12-36	39 Locust St.	2.81	61A	T	N	722
12-37	55 Locust St.	29.65	61A	T	N	722
13-48	20 Folly Mill Rd.	57.80	61A	T	N	722
13-92	40 Congress St.	1.88	61A	T	N	722
17-87	23 Ferry Lots Ln.	12.17	61A	T	N	722
22-32	5 Seabrook Rd.	10.00	61A	T	N	722
9-3	Ferry Lots Ln.	6.20	61A	T	N	722
TOTAL		836.79				

Source: Salisbury Assessors Data, Chapter 61 Land, 2006

Table 5-4: Privately Owned & Unprotected Parcels of Recreation Interest

Map-Lot	Site Name	Location	Acres	Protection Level	Primary Use	Public Access
16-1	Cove Marina	8 Friedenfels Road	4.39	N	R	P\$
16-40	Marsh	Ferry Lots Lane	30	N	R	
18-128	Rusnik Camping Area	115 Lafayette Road	29	N	R	P\$
19-180	Black Bear Campground	54 Main Street	16.5	N	R	P\$
24-80	Pines Campgrounds	28 CCC Road	31.5	N	R	P\$
7-	Ring's Island Marina	16 First Street	1.4	N	R	P\$
7-21	Bridge Marina	179 Bridge Road	1.4	N	R	P\$
28-30	Beach Rose RV Park	147 Beach Road	6.34	N	R	P\$

Source: MassGIS

B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

There is no land classified in Salisbury as “open space” (Assessor’s Office).

Table 5-5: Permanently Protected Land

Site Name	Fee Owner	Map-Lot	Acres	Protection Level	Primary Use	Public Access
Barnes Island	Essex County Greenbelt Assoc.	16-24	10	P	C	
Carr Island Sanctuary	Dept. of Fish & Game	8-4	62	P	C	
Conservation Land	Town of Salisbury	19-100	5.5	P	B	
Eagle Island NHA	Dept. of Fish & Game	9-58		P	B	
Marsh	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	27-5	0.83	P	B	
North Shore Salt Marsh	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	16-15	6	P	C	
Pettengill W	The Trustees of Reservation		39.8	P	C	
Ram Island Sanctuary	Dept. of Fish & Game	16-13	26	P	C	
Salisbury Beach State Reservation	DCR	M 30 & 36	334.75	P	B	PUB
Salisbury Beach State Reservation	DCR			P	B	PUB
Salisbury Beach State Reservation	DCR	27-80	4	P	B	PUB
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	24-105	4	P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	27-2	6	P	B	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	27-93	7	P	B	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game		4	P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game		14	P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	28-40	60.5	P	B	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	27-54	20	P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game	27/Many	10.7	P	C	
Salisbury Salt Marsh WMA	Dept. of Fish & Game			P	C	
Tide Meadows	Essex County Greenbelt Assoc.	16-22	7	P	C	
Wellfields	Salisbury Water Supply Company	19-177	55	P	W	N
	Dept. of Fish & Game	29-35	25	P	C	
Salisbury Town Wharf	Town of Salisbury	7-10	0.39	P	R	PUB

Source: MassGIS

The website for the Essex County Greenbelt Association explains its mission as this: “Greenbelt's land conservation program works across Essex County to conserve land that has scenic, ecological

and agricultural significance. Greenbelt acquires land and perpetual conservation restrictions (easements) by gift and purchase. In keeping with Greenbelt's founding philosophy, we are particularly interested not only in conserving more land, but in building contiguous areas of protected land that are oriented along scenic roads, rivers and streams, wildlife corridors, and trails. To this end we seek to conserve parcels that are adjacent or proximate to existing Greenbelt land or restrictions, or to land that is protected by other nonprofits, communities or agencies”.

Table 5-6: Essex County Greenbelt Land

Map-Lot	Location	Acres	Protection Level	Public Access
5-58	Great Brook	39.80	P	PUB
14-25	152 Ferry Road	6.00	P	PUB
15-13	Bridge Road	6.00	P	PUB
15-57	41 Ferry Road	9.70	P	PUB
16-22	Tide Meadows	7.00	P	PUB
16-24	Barnes Island	10.00	P	PUB
24-94	Fox Island	6.00	P	PUB
24-106	Barberries	4.00	P	PUB
24-108	Barberries	4.00	P	PUB
24-109	Barberries	7.00	P	PUB
25-27	Beach Road	2.00	P	PUB
25-35	Great Meadows	8.00	P	PUB
25-38	Great Meadows	6.50	P	PUB
27-73	Barberries	5.50	P	PUB
28-72	Great Meadows	2.00	P	PUB
36-181	15 Cottage Way	1.20	P	PUB

Source: Essex County Greenbelt, 2006

Table 5-7: Public Land of Limited Protection

Map-Lot	Site Name	Fee Owner	Acres	Protection Level	Primary Use	Public Access
22-13	Salisbury Elementary School	Town of Salisbury	22.25	L	R	PUB
6-71	Lions Park	Town of Salisbury	13.1	L	R	PUB
25-9	Longhill Cemetery	Town of Salisbury	15.1	L	H	PUB
3-4	Old Burial Ground	Town of Salisbury	0.7	L	H	PUB
19-1	True Cemetery		1.7			PUB
6-12	Town Green	Town of Salisbury	1.3	L	R	PUB
6-38	Salisbury Memorial School Playground	Town of Salisbury	5.5	L	R	PUB
28-43	Salisbury Little League Field	Town of Salisbury	6.6	L	R	PUB
24-54		Town of Salisbury	10.6	L	R	
15-109	Marsh	Town of Salisbury	6.81	L	R	
15-85	Marsh	Town of Salisbury	2.3	L	R	
16-14	Bellvue School District	City of Newburyport	10.5	L	R	

Source: MassGIS

Table 5-8: Town Owned Land of Interest for Open Space and Recreation

Map-Lot	Location	Purpose	Acres
10-70	Off Fox Run Road	Open Space	7.00
19-66	14 Toll Road	Water Co.	0.25
19-100	4 Pike Street	Land	5.50
22-20	Lafayette Road	Tax Title Taking	12.50
28-35	19 Old County Road	Dump	4.00
28-53	31 Old County Road	Dump	5.50
28-54	31 Old County Road	Dump	2.50
28-55	31 Old County Road	Dump	2.50

Source: Assessors Data, 2006

Property #1: Off Fox Run Road-10-70

This is a 7 acre parcel which could be used for park space.

Property #2: 14 Toll Road-19-66

This is a quarter-acre parcel which could be used for a small playground.

Property #3: 4 Pike Street-19-100

At the May 1997 Town Meeting, an article passed to put aside the Town owned land located at the corner of US Route 1 and State Route 286 as town park land in perpetuity.

Property #4: Lafayette Road-22-20

This parcel abuts the land that will be the extended Rail Trail, as well as being located behind the Salisbury Elementary School. This land is landlocked but could be accessed through the Rail Trail when it extends to this area. This site may also be used for wells, but needs testing first. The Department of Public Works (DPW) recommends if this area is indeed used for wells in the future, recreational uses can co-exist on site with limits. The limits would stipulate that nothing be built within a 400 foot radius of the wells, and no fertilizer would be allowed. One possible recreational use of this site would be a playground.

Property #5: 19 & 31 Old County Road-28-35, 53, 54, 55

The capped landfill has the potential to be an area for passive recreation such as bird-watching. A golf course has been mentioned for this site, but this possibility has not been seriously explored.

Table 5-9: All Town-Owned Land

Map-Lot	Location	Acres	Type
10-70	Off Fox Run Rd	7.00	Open Space
15-109	Rear Longmeadow Dr	6.81	Open Space
15-138	Rear Ferry Rd	7.59	Open Space
15-85	Longmeadow Dr	2.30	Open Space
13-41	10 Blacksnake Rd	20.00	Water Co.
14-75	101 Ferry Rd	0.26	Ferry Rd Cemetery
14-85	Ferry Rd	0.26	Cemetery
19-1	4 Toll Rd	1.38	Cemetery
19-100	4 Pike St	5.50	Land
19-177	Locust St	55.00	Water Co.
19-66	14 Toll Rd	0.25	Water Co.
20-66	11 Trout Way	0.55	Unbuildable Land
22-13	100 Lafayette Rd	22.25	Elementary School
22-20	Lafayette Rd	12.50	Tax Title Taking
22-21	Lafayette Rd	17.90	Tax Title Taking
22-48	Rear Lafayette Rd	9.33	Conservation Commission Land
2-45	29 Elm St	0.77	Tax Title Taking
24-54	52 Dock Ln	10.60	Land
25-9	105 Beach Rd	15.10	Cemetery
28-14	46 Old County Rd	0.23	Land-Locked Land
28-35	19 Old County Rd	4.00	Dump
28-43	215 Beach Rd	6.60	Little League Field
28-53	31 Old County Rd	5.50	Dump
28-54	31 Old County Rd	2.50	Dump
28-55	31 Old County Rd	2.50	Dump
28-56	31 Old County Rd	6.00	Dump
28-67	Great Meadows	10.00	Marsh
28-7	185 Beach Rd	0.44	Land
28-74	Great Meadows	2.50	Great Meadows
28-78	Great Meadows	4.00	Marsh
32-277	64 Railroad Ave	0.22	Land
32-284	42 Railroad Ave	0.08	Land
32-360	14 Brisette Ave	0.05	Land
32-52	228 Beach Rd	8.16	Town Parking Lot
32-56	17 Cable Ave	0.06	Rest Rooms
32-57	24 Railroad Ave	0.27	Parking Lot
32-62	18 Railroad Ave	0.17	Police Station
32-84	53 Railroad Ave	0.13	Land
33-38	91 North End Blvd	0.23	Water Co.
3-4	24 Beach Rd	0.87	Cemetery

35-6	371 North End Blvd	0.03	Land
Map-Lot	Location	Acres	Type
4-120	52 Beach Rd	0.02	Water Co.
5-18	5 Beach Rd	0.47	Town Hall
5-2	Rear Garafalo Dr	8.50	Conservation Commission Land
6-11	16 Elm St	1.01	Salisbury Historical Society
6-12	17 Elm St	2.00	Library & Park
6-38	18 Maple St	5.50	Memorial School
6-71	39 Lafayette Rd	31.10	Fire/Hilton Cntr/DPW/Playground
7-10	32 First St	0.39	Town Pier
7-22	1 First St	0.08	Land-Cor of First & March
7-44	8 Fourth St	0.50	Fire Station-Comm House
9-16	125 Elm St	14.37	Sewer Treatment Plant Land
9-25	155 Elm St	1.70	Sewer Treatment Plant Land
9-27	151 Elm St	14.04	Sewer Treatment Plant Land
9-69	Elm St	38.31	Sewer Treatment Plant Land

Source: Assessors Data

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

A. Description of Process

Open Space and Recreation Surveys were sent to a sample of Salisbury's population in early summer 2006. The survey was based on examples of similar surveys from other towns in Massachusetts. The survey was mailed to 1 out of every 5 of the 3,000 heads of household in Salisbury, with 600 families receiving a survey. A newspaper article in the *Newburyport Daily News* brought attention to the survey and encouraged those who received a survey to complete and return it. Surveys were also available at the 2006 Spring Town Meeting, in the Planning Office and online, for those who were not part of the random sample but wished their views to be heard.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Salisbury is blessed with oceanfront and riverfront land, an accessible shoreline and a small-town atmosphere, while still being close to many amenities. Salisbury's seaside location, access to the highways and low tax rate makes it an easy place to live, work and play; thus, Salisbury is seeing a resurgence of growth. With this growth, much of the land that was once perceived as open space is being built on. This growth pattern needs to be addressed before the land is no longer available as open space. Three main goals for the Open Space and Recreation Plan have been established with the stated issues in mind:

1. Preserve and protect the Town's natural resources
2. Preserve the scenic quality and rural character of the Town of Salisbury
3. Meet the recreational needs of all town residents

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

After much examination of the data and inventories, as well as discussions and surveys from residents, it is realized that more can be done. Items that are needed are:

- Tree Removal Bylaw
- Protection of land which abuts the waterways, namely, the land that the Merrimack Watershed Team and NHESP have designated as vital for conservation
- Adopting the Community Preservation Act
- Bike lanes, mainly on Beach Road
- New recreation fields to allow for different sports, such as soccer and football
- More sidewalks

B. Summary of Community's Needs

The residents of Salisbury need more activities available to them, and over the whole year, not just the summertime. The respondents of the survey state that what they want most (Question #6) are neighborhood parks. There are not many parks in Town, and most are concentrated in the town center and beach areas, with nothing in the Plains area (Northwest side of Salisbury). Although homes in that area may have more land than those in the Square or Beach, there is still the need for neighborhood parks, to create a sense of community.

With the influx of condominiums in the beach center area as well as the tight zoning regulations for houses, there are more residents without land to do activities such as gardening in the beach area. Having a community garden in that area may allow the residents who do not own their own land a place to garden, as well as create an area where community is fostered. Parcels of land in the beach area are limited though; a possibility would be for the condominiums to offer some type of access, even if just to their own residents.

The following is relevant information obtained from the Open Space & Recreation Survey.

Question #1: Should more land be set aside in Town for recreation or conservation open space?

YES: 85.9%

NO: 7.8%

DON'T KNOW: 6.3%

Question #3: How important is it to preserve or protect?

	Very Important	Neutral	Not at all Important
Historic Resources	77%	20%	3%
Open Spaces for Recreation	85%	13%	2%
Open Spaces for Conservation	74%	22%	3%
Farmland	63%	32%	5%

Question #4: How Important is it to address:

	Very Important	Neutral	Not at all Important
Destruction of the town's character	70%	18%	12%
Disappearing wildlife habitat	72%	26%	2%
Pollution	87%	9%	4%
Lack of adequate rec. facilities	73%	21%	5%
Lack of adequate preserved open space	71%	27%	2%

Question #5: Which of the following are used by you and your family? (*check all that apply*)

Beach: 79.7%
 Beach Access: 70.3%
 State Reservation: 67.2%
 Parks: 50.0%

Question #6: Which facilities would you like to see added or enlarged? (*check all that apply*)

Neighborhood Parks: 45.3%
 Beach Access: 46.9%
 Fishing: 45.3%
 Teen Program: 43.8%
 Youth Summer Program: 39.1%

Question #7: For the purpose of developing new recreation areas or preservation or open space, would you:

	YES	NO	MAYBE
a. Allow the purchase of your land:	16%	82%	2%
b. Donate your land or a portion thereof:	2%	96%	2%
c. Allow the purchase of a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land:	24%	76%	0
d. Donate a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land:	17%	83%	0
e. Allow the purchase of recreational easements on your land:	6%	94%	0
f. Donate recreational easements on your land:	0	100%	0

Question #8: Are you concerned with the growth rate of the Town?

YES: 64.1%
 NO: 28.1%

Question #9: Which residential growth policy do you favor for the Town?

No new development: 12.7%
 No new development until Master Plan is completed: 25.4%
 New development in existing developed areas only: 6.3%
 New development in undeveloped area: 3.2%
 Restricted development: 42.9%
 No changes: 3.2%

Question #10: Are you satisfied with:

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
a. Recreational facilities for children	51%	47%	2%
b. Recreational facilities for adults	38%	60%	2%
c. General conditions of these facilities	60%	38%	2%

Question #11: What town actions do you favor to preserve open space?

Obtain State grants to allow Town to purchase land: 67.2%

Mandatory dedication of open space by developers: 64.1%

Question #12: Please list any specific land in Salisbury that you think could be used for recreation facilities. See following Survey Comments.

Question #13: Please list any specific parcels of land in Salisbury that you think are of conservation interest: See following Survey Comments.

Question #14: What area of Salisbury do you like to show out-of-town guests?
See following Survey Comments.

Question #15: Where do you live in Salisbury?

Salisbury Square: 27%

Beach: 41%

Plains: 6%

Rings Island: 14%

Other: 11%

Question #16: Who is in your household?

0-6 year olds: 6%

7-12 year olds: 6%

13-17 year olds: 7%

18-64 year olds: 55%

65+ year olds: 23%

Special Needs: 2%

Question #17: How long have you been a resident of Salisbury?

Less than 1 year: 1.6%

1-5 years: 10.9%

6-10 years: 29.7%

11-20 years: 17.2%

Over 20 years: 39.1%

Question #18: Why do you live in Salisbury? (*check all that apply-% will be more than 100%*)

Rural Atmosphere: 47.6%

Work/Commute: 15.9%

Housing: 28.6%

Schools: 9.5%

Grew up here & Stayed: 23.8%

Family & Friends: 27%

Access to Recreational Activities: 22.2%

Survey Comments

[Comments are verbatim from Survey]

Question 1: Should more land be set aside in Salisbury for recreation and/or open space?	Tennis courts are a nice feature for adult recreation Land should be used for elderly & low Income families
Question 2: Which of these types of land would you like to see preserved?	Marsh wet land for wildlife
Question 3: How important is it to preserve or protect:	Need to build sand dunes across center to prevent water from overflowing and damaging property
Question 4: How important is it to address?	Build a positive visual character for Town of Salisbury All the town has are commercial slums for a few operators and private home you have no business in.
Question 6: Which of the following facilities/programs would you like to see added or enlarged?	Bring back the summer park program Construct a boardwalk from beach center to reservation, need to restore existing one Would be nice if we could fish off the town pier – Is there an adult recreation program?
Question 8: Are you concerned about the growth rate of the Town?	<p>Yes, concerned with increase in units vs. services, also whether temporary or permanent housing</p> <p>Need to control 40B developments Particularly on Beach Road, Apts. Condo's Townhouses, traffic affected. Beach area streets in poor condition, sidewalks also need attention</p> <p>Too many condo's being build on beach, what ever happen to rides and amusements?</p> <p>Maintain a balanced approach to growth in Salisbury</p> <p>Too many condo's, Infrastructure!</p> <p>Too much housing and too little commercial development</p> <p>Concern about sewage, water overloads</p>
	<p>Town is promoting a community that is walking unfriendly. Where are the sidewalks?</p> <p>Water, traffic, school population, especially caused by the transients in our Town</p> <p>Too much land is being purchased for building development, i.e. the Plains in Salisbury</p> <p>The over development of the town has become apparent with nothing in return. If contractors wish to build here, they should show commitment, i.e. donations to the Police, Fire, DPW, but when you see the good ole boys sitting at the meetings with their IQ of 2</p>

	<p>allowing this to happen what is a person to do?</p> <p>Yes, The number of 40B's is disturbing</p> <p>Yes, Wetlands and open spaces should be conserved; however, rebuilding broken down areas, especially around the beach area is encouraged.</p> <p>Too many cars, traffic is ridiculous, you take your life in your hands if trying to get on the roads in the summer.</p> <p>Concerned that the town will get too big and roads will be busy all the time.</p> <p>Yes, condos, condos, condos, not enough parking</p> <p>Yes, no sand left – just swamp – high taxes, poor roads, no garbage collection , no free ambulances service, no buses, along with high traffic and speeding on North End Blvd., overworked police and fire dept. and over paid town consultants.</p> <p>I think the town needs to control the amount of condo's being built. We need more stores for residents.</p> <p>Yes, Putting too much stress on public resources (water, sewer)</p> <p>I am concerned about the impact the building will have on schools, sewer systems, lack of preservation of wetlands to name a few.</p> <p>Yes, too many new homes being constructed...What about classroom size, taxes</p>
Question 9: What residential growth policy do you favor for the Town?	<p>Shouldn't overpopulate our town</p> <p>I do not like your present policies; they are too communistic (telling people what to do with their land).</p>
Question 11: Are you satisfied with:	<p>For what we have, Salisbury Baseball Softball League does a great job updating and maintaining the fields</p>

<p>Question 12: Please list any specific parcels of land in Salisbury that you think could be used for recreation facilities:</p>	<p>Corner lot of Pike St & Lafayette Rd</p> <p>Where the go carts are on Beach Rd. that area would attract more tourists and be great for local residents</p> <p>Between Ferry Road & Bridge Road (unsure of address)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tim Stevens farm - Rail extension from Mudnock Merrimack river town creek, pier for launch of kayak, canoe - Town Ball park at Beach Rd., Tennis courts - Town Beach parking lot <p>Route 286 & Lafayette Road</p> <p>Fox Run Road – 7 acres, area of Bartlett St. near electric lines for parking near the bike trail. Lafayette Road, McKinney @ lights, Lafayette Road @ Town State line on left</p> <p>MBTA railroad property by Gillis bridge</p> <p>How about using the “State Park” which has all the space and facilities necessary</p> <p>The old school in the plains section of Town and the old Johnson Motel next to it that appears to be for sale. The other side is a farm stand. That could be a great location for a recreation facility or a sports complex. Also, the land heading towards the beach on the left that has been used for go carts. The ball field at the beach. A second idea for this location would be a place to have concerts, a beautifully landscaped spot to welcome families to the beach, a bike path for kids, walking trails for adults, picnic areas, spread out on the grounds for concerts. Please help maintain access to the beach!</p> <p>Empty lots down the beach, Shaheen’s lot, the Pavillion Preservation of Memorial school building & grounds for purpose of servicing youth and community</p>
<p>Question 13: Please list any specific parcels of land in Salisbury that you think are of conservation interest:</p>	<p>Improved transportation to exit beach, especially during an emergency, there should be a third road out of the beach, feels this is extremely important. Exceptional feature for the future of Salisbury and its resident’s safety.</p> <p>Pettengill property on Beach Road</p> <p>Land of the Selectmen, Mr. Richenburg, Mr. Klimer and Mr. Carrol</p> <p>Land off old Merrill St. in Amesbury which becomes Salisbury, could be bicycle and hiking trails.</p>

<p>Question 14: What areas of Salisbury do you like to show out of town guests?</p>	<p>Truthfully nothing – all main roads are a mess, junk businesses and others who don't care what the area looks like, we need to have property rules for businesses to be more attractive that goes for the beach, too.</p> <p>This town does not enforce agreements their boards enact. I was told to hire a lawyer to resolve my issue. If I had been a native, I believe the town would have helped me. I don't break the rules and I pay my taxes to keep the town solvent. I don't care about this town anymore</p> <p>Lions Park, Beach</p> <p>Continued improvement in parks & beach</p> <p>Used to show them Salisbury Beach</p> <p>Beach</p> <p>Beach Area</p> <p>The Beach, not the condos</p> <p>None, except ocean</p> <p>My area if the roads were cleanly paved & sidewalks redone, it would clean thing up. Example: Railroad Ave, Atlantic Ave 1A going towards Hampton & our centers. All around beach areas especially</p> <p>Beach & marsh</p> <p>Beach areas, Farms such as Pettengill, Library/common area</p> <p>Beach, State Reservation</p> <p>State Reservation</p> <p>Salisbury Sq, Rings Island, State Reservation</p> <p>Beach area, Salisbury State Reservation</p> <p>State Park-marsh-railtrail Ferry Lots Lane-Merrimack River-Rings Island</p> <p>Truthfully nothing. All main roads a mess b/c of junk businesses & others who just don't care what the area looks like-we need to have property rules for businesses to make more attractive. That goes for the beach too</p> <p>The farm land & beach</p> <p>North end of beach</p> <p>Beach/Rings Island/River</p> <p>Main St/farming side, Salisbury reservation</p> <p>Beach, Farms in Plains, Rings Island, Merrimack River & marshes</p> <p>Sweet Apple Tree Lane, Rings Island, Bike Trail, Beach/marsh Every place</p> <p>Salisbury beach/reservation/walk along beach</p>
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	Riverfront, beach, downtown
	Beach & state reservation
	Great marsh
	Beach
	Rings Island, beach
	Our lack of buses, our lack of town dump, lack of ambulances & our strip joints
	Beach, reservation (beach), batting cages
	None
	The beach & state reservation
	The Salisbury Reservation, Baker Rd
	The Beach
	Lions Park, Elementary School, Rail Trail
	Bartlett Farm, Lions Park, Elementary School, Salisbury Res. Stroll on the beach
	Salisbury Reservation
	Nothing-the beach area is an embarrassment, we don't have anything to offer

<p>Question 19: Do you have any other information or thoughts that you would like considered in the planning process?</p>	<p>Continue moving ahead in a positive direction</p> <p>Lives at 219 Beach Rd., Trade wind Condos, was told by Mr. Harrington that the land behind the ball field would not be cleared until the money to complete it was in place and a final plan in place. However 2005, trees were cut down, large pile of chips left and we have to look at the mess every day. The Town did exactly what Mr. Harrington said they would not do!</p> <p>Overcrowding leads to more traffic, more pollution and less habitat for wildlife. I am amazed at how many new houses are going up so close to wetlands. I have seen hawks, turkeys leave areas that have recently been developed. Where are the coyotes and deer supposed to live and hunt?</p> <p>Continued revitalization of beach center is vital. Need to make this an attractive, comfortable place for families to visit, and spend time and money.</p> <p>Yes, Growth should go hand-in-hand with essential services and educational needs. These need to be addressed together, not separately.</p> <p>Hope growth rate brings more revenue to clean up the center and the beach</p> <p>Concerned about impact on schools, water/sewer infrastructure</p> <p>We will need another elementary school if building homes continues.</p> <p>The town is growing too fast</p> <p>Preserve the beach and the property near them from flooding, also ability to exit from beach safer, clean up trash, re-pave roads, sweeping and clean sidewalks. Clean up the businesses so the main roads are more attractive and inviting.</p> <p>Keep the center and make it shop friendly, open a finer restaurant, give people a reason to come and spend money, also make center family friendly.</p> <p>Bridge Road water problem needs to be monitored and solved somehow.</p>
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	<p>Believe town paid garbage collection should come b/4 money output to buy land and would like to see weekly trash pickup on North End Blvd.</p> <p>Important to keep Route 1 mixed with business and residences (not just commercial space) since it abuts river and scenic NBPT.</p> <p>Growth cannot go unchecked. Unless developers live in Salisbury, their interests are economic only, not long-term or in the taxpayers best interest.</p> <p>Please mind your own business, keep your hands out of the states pocket. Stop trying to obtain Govt. funds for projects that do not support the residents of Salisbury.</p> <p>Keep in mind that we need some beach area activities (besides arcades) for children & families, including things for year-round kids to do (like skateboard park).</p> <p>Make all land owners maintain their property. Historical Society has not kept the property in the town square from becoming an eyesore to those who visit the town via Rt. 110, or for neighbors who have to look at overgrown lawn and storage trailers.</p> <p>Please no more strip clubs in Salisbury! It is absolutely disgusts me that a place like Kitty's exist in town or Ten's down the beach. Places like this do not add character or charm to our town. Help the beach area to be a safe, family orientated location. We need to give teens a fun place to go. The Salisbury skate board park is a great idea. Let's use it to its full potential. Have skate board demonstrations or competitions...</p> <p>A Master Plan would be most important in pulling all this together. We need to bring character back to this town.</p>
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C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

With the ideas generated in The Salisbury Open Space and Recreation Plan, there may be the need to create an Open Space Committee whose main goal is to oversee the implementation of the goals and objectives, even though they will actually be carried out by various departments and boards in Town. The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Recreation Committee may need more staffing to carry out some of these objectives. With more staffing and actions comes the need for more funds, so it is advised that departments, but mainly the Planning Department, apply for the various conservation and recreation grants available.

The properties owned by the Town which are of a recreational use need to be updated to the ADA standards by the DPW, the Section 504-Handicapped Accessibility Self Evaluation is in Appendix E. The remaining items are:

- Updating the Hilton Senior Center (estimated completion winter 2006)
- Lions Park-Handicapped spots in parking lot, handicapped accessible walkway and cement table needs to be accessible for those in wheelchairs
- Beach Baseball Field-Parking lot to be regarded and paved with handicapped spots
- Beach Public Restrooms-property not town owned
- Beach Center Area-Pay phone needs to meet height requirements
- Memorial Square Park-Sidewalk not proper width and the water bubble is not accessible for those in wheelchairs

With so many innovative ideas for land use, it is recommended that the Planning Board update their Subdivision Control Regulations to incorporate these new planning tools.

The Town owned land on Lafayette Road, which was dedicated earlier for recreation and conservation purposes will need to be converted to new uses, and this will also require more work, mainly from the DPW and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A management plan for the Town owned lands would allow in-depth analysis of the best practices for the current recreation and open space sites, as well as the newer sites identified in this Plan. A management plan would also be a way for the Town to leverage money by showing prospective donors of land how the Town would use the land. A management plan may include:

- Location on map
- Acreage
- Site map with features and facilities
- Boundaries by deed and boundaries on the ground
- List of significant natural inhabitants-plants and animals
- Site history
- Evaluation of handicapped-accessibility
- Ownership
- Management entity
- Endowment
- Degree of protection
- Any 'friends' group affiliations (volunteer group who have an interest in the site)
- List of people and/or government departments to contact for further information or to report a problem
- Important rules for use of the site
- Hours of operation

(Arlington, MA Open Space Plan, 2002-2007).

A Town Capital Improvements Plan would also allow the sites in Town to be scheduled for large improvements.

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The last Open Space Plan was written in 1986. Although the Town has changed, with increases in the amount of residential and commercial development as well as increases in transportation opportunities, the goals for open space and recreation haven't changed substantially.

Goal #1: Preserve and protect the Town's natural resources

Objectives:

1-A: Increase the quantity and quality of the town's water supply resources

1-B: Increase the protection of the Town's wetlands and natural land and increase monitoring of existing projects

Goal #2: Preserve the scenic quality and rural character of the Town of Salisbury

Objectives:

2-A: Promote public awareness and understanding of local open space and conservation issues

2-B: Use various planning tools to protect the Town's sense of place

Goal #3: Meet the recreation needs of all Town residents

Objectives:

3-A: Acquire and develop new recreation sites and facilities to provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for all users and review existing sites

SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

	Who's Responsible	Priority	Time Frame
Goal 1: Preserve & protect the Town's natural resources			
Objective 1-A: Increase the quantity & quality of the Town's water supply resources			
Action: Encourage the Open Space Residential Design Bylaw, incorporate Low Impact Development (L.I.D.)	PB	H	2007
Action: Optimize creeks	HC	M	2008
Objective 1-B: Increase the protection of Town's wetlands and natural land and increase monitoring of existing projects			
Action: Complete necessary steps to have Parker River/Essex Bay designated as an Area of Critical Concern (ACEC)	CC	L	2009
Action: Get vernal pools certified	CC	L	2010
Action: Apply for available grants	CC	M	2008
Action: Create a Water Management Plan	WC	H	2007
Action: Work with the recommendations of the Watershed Management Plan & NHESP	CC	M	2008
Action: Obtain conservation restrictions, linking with existing open space when possible	CC	M	2008
Action: Complete the Harbor Management Plan	HC	H	2007
Action: Create a Beach Management Plan	CC & DCR	H	2008
Action: Create a Dune Restoration Plan	CC & DCR	H	2008
Action: Provide consistent and effective enforcement	CC	H	2007
Goal 2: Preserve the scenic quality and rural character of the Town			
Objective: 2-A: Promote public awareness and understanding of local open space and conservation issues			
Action: Work with the schools/science teachers to promote open space to students and parents	CC & agent	M	2008/2009
Objective 2-B: Use various planning tools to protect the Town's sense of place			
Action: Create a tree replacement/preservation bylaw/update the Forest Bylaw	CC	H	2007
Action: Create a Right to Farm Bylaw	PB	M	2008
Action: Create a beach boardwalk	PB	H	2008
Action: Support Farms/Farmers Market	PD	L	2010

Priority

H=High

M=Medium

L=Low

Who's Responsible:

PB: Planning Board

CC: Conservation Commission

HC: Harbor Commission

WC: Water Commission

PD: Planning Department

DCR: Department of Conservation & Recreation

	Who's Responsible	Priority	Time Frame
Goal 3: Meet the recreation needs of all Town residents			
Objective 3-A: Acquire and develop new recreation sites and facilities to provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for all users, while reviewing existing sites			
Action: Upgrade and properly equip existing facilities so they can be utilized to their maximum potential	DPW, P&R	H	2007
Action: Adopt the Community Preservation Act	PD	H	2008
Action: Develop RailTrails and Bike Lanes	DPW/PD	M	2007
Action: Develop the utility field at the beach baseball field	DPW, P&R	H	2007
Action: Create new fields for soccer, football, etc.	DPW, P&R	H	2007
Action: Increase the amount of sidewalks, allowing for more walkability	PB, DPW, ZBA	H	2008
Action: Negotiate with private landowners for passive and active recreation land	PB, CC	H	2007
Action: Increase the amount of water-based recreational activities	HC	H	2008
Action: Study existing town properties for future recreation use-i.e., dump, 286 land	PD	M	2008
Action: Optimize access to creeks	HC	M	2008
Action: Make Town sites ADA compliant as recommended in the Section 504 Plan	DPW	H	2008
Action: Develop a management plan to ID and address conflicts relating to public access	P&R	M	2008
Action: Promote public awareness and understanding of local recreational facilities, programs and issues	P&R	M	2009
Action: Create a brochure for the general public showing all of the public access points to the ocean and rivers	HC, P&R, PD	L	2009

Priority

H=High

M=Medium

L=Low

Who's Responsible:

PB: Planning Board

CC: Conservation Commission

HC: Harbor Commission

WC: Water Commission

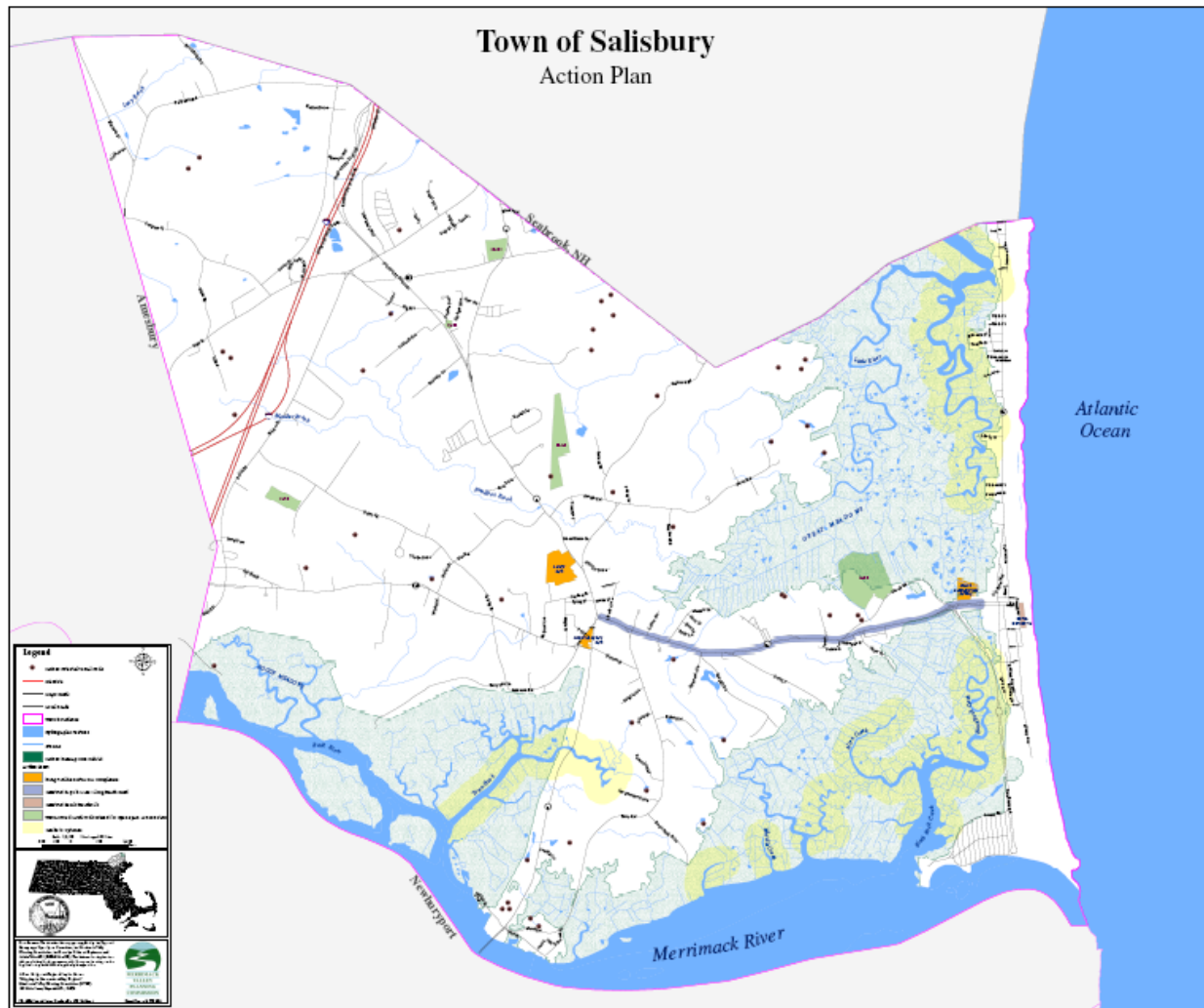
PD: Planning Department

DPW: Department of Public Works

P & R: Parks & Recreation Committee

ZBA: Zoning Board of Appeals

Map 9: Action Plan Map



SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS



Town of Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, Massachusetts 01952
Board of Selectmen
(978) 462-8232 ext. 100

Jerry Klima, Chairman
Donald Beaulieu
Henry Richenburg
Ed Hunt
Fred Knowles

June 29, 2007

Open Space Committee
Town of Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952

This is to confirm that the Salisbury Board of Selectmen has reviewed and commented on the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Salisbury and that the Board endorses and fully supports the Plan.

The Town of Salisbury is facing significant pressure for development both along Salisbury Beach and in inland parts of the town. In addition to our significant beach, salt marsh and river assets, the Town still has large areas of fields and woodlands that are undeveloped. It is important to have a plan to help guide approaches to future development and/or preservation of these areas.

In addition, as the Town's population expands it is essential that we focus on further development of our recreational facilities and that we expand recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. That will make the Town a better place to live and work and will promote healthier lifestyles.

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank the volunteers who served on the Open Space Committee, the citizens of the Town who participated in meetings concerning the Plan, and the staff of the Planning Department who helped to develop the Plan. The Board believes that the Plan will be a valuable resource that will help to guide decision-making in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JK", is written over the name "Jerry Klima, Chairman".

Jerry Klima, Chairman

Lisa Pearson
Director of Planning and
Development
lpearson@salisburyma.gov

Leah T. Hill
Assistant Planner
lhill@salisburyma.gov

Pat Banfield
Planning Board Secretary
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Planning Board
Town of Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952

Planning Board:
Larry Cuddire, Chairman
Robert Straubel, V. Chairman
Don Egan
David Holscher
Lisa Lane
Isa Cann, Alternate

Open Space Committee
Town of Salisbury, MA
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952

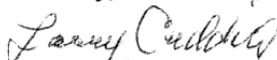
May 17, 2007

Re. Open Space & Recreation Plan

The Planning Board has reviewed the Open Space and Recreation Plan and would like to make their appreciation known for the time and effort the committee made to get this plan completed. The Planning Board is looking forward to accomplishing the goals and action items as written.

L. Lane motions to approve the Open Space & Recreation Plan and the 5-year Action Plan as presented. R. Straubel Seconds. Vote on motion 3 – 0 – unanimous.

Sincerely,


Larry Cuddire, Chairman
Salisbury Planning Board



Conservation Commission Town of Salisbury

5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952
(978)499-0358

conservation@salisburyma.gov

August 1, 2007

Thomas Hughes
Chairman

Iora Alexander
Vice Chairman

Michael Greene
Clerk

Richard A. Whaley

Charles Takesian

Trevor Shreeve

Michelle Rowden
Agent

Open Space Plan Committee
Town of Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952

The Commission commends the Open Space Committee for their hard work on a plan that will enable the Town to be eligible for future grants and other funding opportunities. After reviewing the plan, the Commission requested that the following issues be further analyzed:

- Flood protection and dune/beach management
- Additional sewer and sewer treatment plant data
- Clarification regarding parking at access points to public lands
- Additional conservation lands unmentioned in the Plan
- Adding an action item of creating a Beach Management Plan

Upon these items being discussed at more length in the plan, the Commission gives their endorsement of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and looks forward to playing a pivotal role in accomplishing the goals as set forth in the Plan.

Thank you,

Thomas Hughes, Chairman
Salisbury Conservation Commission

At last, tax hearing set for Thursday

BY ANGEL JEAN CHIARAMIDA
STAFF WRITER

The town will be another step closer to officially setting its tax rate on Thursday, when select-

SALISBURY TOWN NOTEBOOK

men hold the annual Tax Classification hearing at 6 p.m. at the EOC room in Salisbury's Fire Station.

The board will determine the tax classification factor for residential, commercial, industrial and personal property used for fiscal year 2006. Also, it will vote on adoption of a residential exemption, a small commercial exemption and an open space discount.

According to Salisbury Assessor Cheryl Gillespie all interested parties will be heard.

For more information, contact the Assessor's office at (978) 465-8242.

In the process of writing Salisbury's Open Space and Recreation Plan, planning officials are conducting a survey that should be received by a 600 randomly selected local households this week,

according to Assistant Town Planner Leah Hill. Those who attended Town Meeting last week were also able to pick up a copy of the, orange, 19-question survey.

"We're conducting the survey so we can understand the needs and concerns of Salisbury residents in regard to open spaces, conservation and recreational land," Hill said. "When the survey is done and the Open Space and Recreation Plan complete, we can use it to apply for state grants."

The plan is a requirement in the application for many grants which provide funding to help purchase town land for conservation and recreation purposes, she said.

With about 3,000 households in Salisbury — about one in every five — was chosen to make up the scientific random sample to whom the survey was sent, Hill said. To be included in the tabulation used for the plan, surveys must be completed and returned by June 9. Surveys can be dropped off in boxes placed in the Planning Department in Town Hall, the Library and the Police Station. They can also be mailed to the Planning Department, Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salis-

bury 01952.

Any residents not receiving a survey, but who would like to take part, may call or drop by the planning office to obtain a copy, Hill said. One can also be printed from the town's Web site at www.salisburyma.gov. Those visiting the site should proceed to the Town Board section, then click on the Planning Board, scrolling down to the survey's name, and clicking to find the printable form.

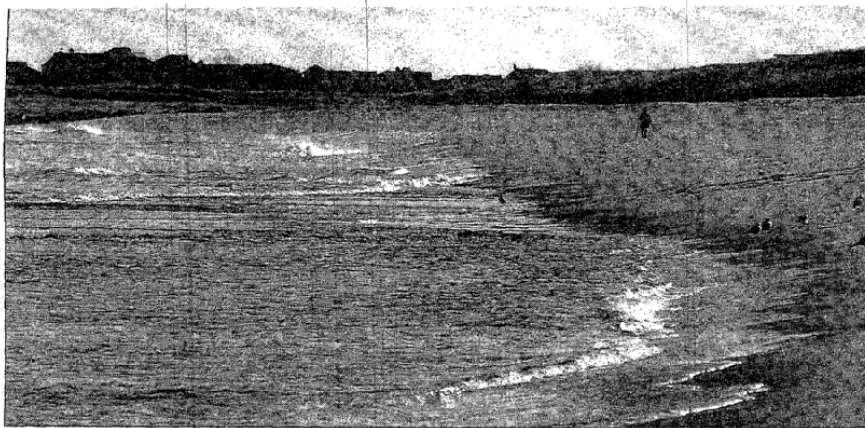
On the survey residents are asked if more land should be set aside for open/conservation space or for recreation purposes and the type of uses that should be included, such as historic, wildlife or natural preservation, as well as farmland or water protection. Residents can also state their preferences as to the recreational uses they would like to see in town, such as tennis, soccer, basketball, fishing or playgrounds. Residential growth is also discussed briefly on the survey.

One of the most important questions on form isn't numbered and comes at the very end of the survey, Hill said. It asks those interested in participating in developing the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan to come forward, Hill said. The project is short-term, she said, and should not involve an enormous investment of time.

For more information, contact Hill at (978) 463-2266.

The next meeting of Salisbury's Coastal Trail and the Coastal Trails Coalition will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Salisbury Elementary School Teacher's Lounge. The agenda will include a review of Earth Day clean-up activities and plans for future events.





KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

A person takes a chilly stroll along Salisbury Beach on Tuesday afternoon.

Salisbury open-space plan posted for public to review

By ANGELJEAN CHIARAMIDA
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — Town officials seek feedback from residents on the draft of the open space and recreation plan recently posted on the Planning Board's page of the town's Web site.

It is important for Salisbury to have an approved, up-to-date plan for several reasons, one of which is that it will make the town eligible for state-funded conservation programs, Planning Board Chairman Larry Cuddire said.

"If a town doesn't have an approved plan, it can't even apply for some state grants," Cuddire said. "Plus, it can help us expand our recreation area. I'd like to see the town include what they call a 'utility field,' where sports like soccer, lacrosse, football or field hockey can be played."

"I believe in the way a town's public library is part of the health and wealth of a community, so is having a good recreational plan."

Cuddire said the finalized open-space plan, along with the town's approved housing plan, will go into drafting a long-desired master plan for Salisbury.

Although it was 1986 when the last open space and recreation plan was created, a lot has happened to the town in 20 years, Assistant Town Planner Leah Hill said. The research and writing of the plan conforms with state requirements, Hill said, and includes a detailed inventory of the town's conservation and recreation lands.

"There are the obvious recreation lands such as the state beach, but we also went looking for previously unknown (parcels of) land that could be used for conservation and recreation," Hill said. "We weren't

able to find a lot of contiguous land that could be used for recreation, but there were some small areas near the rail trail. There was more conservation land that we were able to find."

The plan includes a cache of interesting statistics about the town's population, growth, infrastructure, native vegetation and animal populations, as well as a delineation of Salisbury's natural resources and environmental challenges.

Officials hope residents will review the draft plan and call the planning office with their comments, Hill said. A public forum on the plan is also planned within the first two months of the new year, Hill said.

To view or print the draft of the plan, visit the Planning Department's page on the town's Web site, www.salisburyma.gov, or visit or call the planning office at Town Hall at 978-463-2266.

STAFF WRITER

SEABROOK — The Planning Board will hold a special meeting Tuesday to consider submitting a warrant question in March requiring developers to pay fees to cover the impact their projects will have on town services.

Board members scheduled the meeting at the request of fire Chief Jeff Brown. Brown asked the board to consider the impact fee ordinance after discussing the issue with other town department heads.

An impact fee requires developers to pay a specified amount to the town, usually using a predetermined formula within the ordinance that voters must approve. The money goes into one or more funds to be used to expand Seabrook's infrastructure or buy needed town equipment as defined in the community's capital improvement plan.

Impact fees are long overdue in Seabrook, Brown said. Over the past decade, he said, the town has grown enormously, requiring town services — such as fire, police, water, sewer and schools — to keep up, while offering no financial method to offset the related costs.

There are more streets to plow, more police, fire calls to answer, more water used and more children to educate, yet there is no financial plan for the services to keep up with demand other than taxpayers, he said.

"Growth has now overtaken the town's ability to deal with it," Brown told Planning Board members. "We're at that point right now."

"I think once the people understand how impact fees work, they'll be in favor of them and approve it on the ballot. Impact fees

■ SALISBURY NEWS IN

Santa visits neighborhoods

Santa Claus is coming to town Saturday, accompanied by members of the Fire Department, for a guided tour of neighborhoods.

He will ride atop a fire truck beginning at dusk (4:30 p.m.) at the Lafayette Road station to the following streets in order: Route 1 North, Pike Street, Toll Road, Main Street to Congress, Elmwood Street, Folly Mill Road, Lo-



Newburyport
Daily News
12/7/06

Appendix A: Salisbury Rail Trail Project Chart

Project Phase	Location/Distance	Description	Funding Source/Start Date
Rail Trail Phase 1	1.4 miles Merrimack River to Mudnock Road	Contract for trail design services, including parking areas at Friedenfels St. and Mudnock Road. After design, contract for construction of 12' wide trail. Construction should be simple with no road crossings or bridges.	Design: Fall 2006-Winter 2007; \$74,500 available under TIP Construction: Summer 2007, if possible; \$521,460 available under 2008 TIP
Rail Trail Phase 2	1.7 miles Lion's Park to Mass/NH State Line	Design and construct 12' wide trail, new pedestrian bridge or crossing across Route 1 and connections to Salisbury Elementary School and local neighborhoods. Trail has some ponding from drainage disrupted by ATV use.	Design: Border to Boston earmark. Construction: Discuss funding under TIP and/or Safe Routes to School. Coordinate with Mass Highway reconstruction of Route 1 (Lafayette Road).
Rail Trail Phase 3	0.6 miles Mudnock Road to Lion's Park	Design and construct 12' wide trail, with underpass under of crossing over Route 110. Substantial work needed to design and permit the trail through wetlands.	Design: Border to Boston earmark. Construction: Discuss funding under TIP.
Rail Trail Phase 4 Merrimack River Crossing-Joint Project with City of Newburyport	0.2 miles across Merrimack River from Salisbury to Newburyport	Feasibility Study of alternatives for river crossing, including reusing Merrimack River Railroad Bridge and using Gillis Highway Bridge on Route 1, with trail connection to Ring's Island under the Gillis Bridge. Cost estimates required.	Feasibility Study funded from Border to Boston earmark.
Salisbury Beach Bike Lanes	2.0 miles Salisbury Square to Beach 1.4 miles on SBSR access road	Create marked bike lanes on Beach Road and new Salisbury Beach State Reservation access road.	Mass Highway striping project on Beach Road. Mass DCR striping project on Salisbury Beach State Reservation access road. Ask Coastal Trails Coalition for signage.
Trail Connection from Salisbury Point Ghost Trail to Lion's Park	0.5 miles from Cushing St. to Lion's Park	Extend gravel trail on ROW and build new trail on recreational trail easement through mature woods. Easement crosses small wetland areas. Sensitive design required.	No Mass Highway funding required. Town applied for \$50,000 Recreational Trails Grant for 2007. In kind contributions from the Town, Timberland Corp. and SPS New England. Coastal Trails Coalition will apply for grants.
Trail Connection from Salisbury Point Ghost Trail to Rabbit Road	0.5 miles from current end of trail to Rabbit Road	Build gravel trail on ROW and recreational trail easement to be acquired from Vaughn Manufacturing.	No Mass Highway funding required. In kind contributions from the Town, Timberland Corp. and SPS New England. Coastal Trails Coalition will apply for grants.

Appendix B:

U.S. Endangered Species Act Abbreviations

Code	Definition
LE	Listed Endangered
LT	Listed Threatened
PE	Proposed Endangered
PT	Proposed Threatened
C	Candidate
SC	Special Concern
PDL	Proposed for Delisting
SAE/SAT	Listed Endangered or Threatened because of similarity of appearance
PSAE/PSAT	Proposed Endangered or Threatened because of similarity of appearance
XE	Essential Experimental Population
XN	Nonessential Experimental Population
Null Value	Usually indicates that the taxon does not have any federal status. However, because of potential lag time between publication in the Federal Register and entry in the central database and refresh of this website, some taxa may have a status which does not yet appear.

Source: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/statusus.htm>

Massachusetts Endangered Species Abbreviations

E=Endangered

T=Threatened

SC=Special Concern

WL=unofficial Watch List, not regulated

Natural Communities are not regulated. S-ranks are relative abundance statewide;

S1=most uncommon

S5=demonstrably secure

Appendix C:

Land Use Codes (Massachusetts Dept. of Revenue Division of Local Services, Revised 1/98)

Code 6-Forest Land

601- All land designated under Chapter 61

Code 7-Agricultural/Horticultural-under Chapter 61A

71-Productive Land

712 -Truck Crops-vegetables

713-Field Crops-hay, wheat, etc.

714-Orchards-pears, apples, etc.

716-Tillable Forage Cropland

717-Productive Woodland-Christmas trees, woodlots

718-Pasture

72-Non-Productive Land

720-Necessary related Land-farm roads, ponds, land under farm buildings

722-Wet land, scrub land, rock land

Appendix D: NRPA Current Use Guidelines, 1996

Activity/Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size & Dimension	Recommended Orientation	# of Units/Population	Service Radius
Badminton	1,620 sq. ft.	Singles-17' x 44' Doubles 20' x 44'	Long axis north-south	1/5,000	1/4-1/2 mile
Basketball			Long axis north-south	1/5,000	1/4-1/2 mile
1. Youth	2,400-3,036 sq. ft.	46-50' x 84'			
2. High School	5,040-7,280 sq. ft.	50' x 84'			
3. Collegiate	5,600-7,980 sq. ft.	50' x 94'			
		With 5' unobstructed space on all sides			
Handball	800-1,000 sq. ft.	20' x 40'	Long axis north-south	1/20,000	15-30 minute travel time
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft.	85' x 200' (min. 85' x 185'). Add'l 5,000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south	1/100,000	1/2-1 hour travel time
Tennis	7,200 for single court, 2 A for complex	36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both sides	Long axis north-south	1 court/2,000	1/4-1/2 mile
Volleyball	4,000	30' x 60'.	Long axis north-south	1/5,000	1/4-1/2 mile
Baseball					
1. Official	3.0-3.85 A	Baselines-90', Pitching 60 1/2', foul lines min. 320', center field-400'+-	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun & batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east	1/5,000	1/4-1/2 mile
2. Little League	1.2 A	Baselines-60'. Pitching 46', foul lines-200', center field 200'-250'		Lighted 1/30,000	

Activity/Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size & Dimension	Recommended Orientation	# of Units/Population	Service Radius
Football	1.5 A	160' x 360', min. clearance of 10' on all sides	Same as field hockey	1/20,000	15-30 minutes travel time
Soccer	1.7-2.1 A	195'-225' x 330' to 360' min. clearance of 10' on all sides	Same as field hockey	1/10,000	1-2 miles
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for 25 tees	900' x 690'. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast	1/50,000	30 minutes travel time
1/4 Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width-276', Length-600.02', Track Width-32' for 8-4 lanes	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest-south-east w/ finish line @ northerly end	1/20,000	15-30 minutes travel time
Softball	1.5-2.0 A	Baselines-60'. Pitching -46', 40'-women.	Same as baseball	1/5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	1/4-1/2 mile
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9,840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts w/ primary use is north-south	1/10,000	1-2 miles
Trails	N/A	Well defined head max. 10' width, max. average grade-5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails-40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails-90 hikers/day/mile	N/A	1 system/region	N/A
Archery Range	0.65 A	300' Length x min. 10' wide between targets.	Archer facing north=or-45 degrees	1/50,000	30 minutes travel time
Combination Skeet & Trap	30 A				

Activity/Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size & Dimension	Recommended Orientation	# of Units/Population	Service Radius
Golf			Majority of holes on north-south axis		1/2-1 hour travel time
1. Par 3 (18-hole)	50-60 A	Average length vary 600-2,700 yd.			
2. 9-Hole	50 A	Average length- 2,250 yd.		1/25,000	
3. 18-Hole	110 A	Average length 6,500 yd.		1/50,000	
Swimming Pools	0.5-2 A	Teaching-min. of 25 yards x 45'. Competitive-min. of 25m x 16m	None	1/20,000	15-30 minutes travel time
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft of land & 50 sq. ft. of water/user. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Mertes & Hall, 1996 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines

Appendix E: Survey

SALISBURY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN SURVEY 2006

The Town is in the process of writing the Open Space and Recreation Plan. This is necessary to qualify for State reimbursement programs for acquisition of land for recreation and protection of important open space as well as other State funding for projects not relating to open space or recreation. This survey is being conducted in order to understand the needs and concerns of the citizens of Salisbury in regards to open space protection and recreational opportunities and facilities. Your opinions will help shape the future of Salisbury; the final plan will be a reflection of what you deem important. Please drop completed surveys in the appropriate boxes in the Planning Office, Town Library, or the Police Station or mail to the Town Hall, Planning Dept. 5 Beach Rd no later than June 9, 2006.

1. Should more land be set aside in Salisbury for recreation and/or conservation open space?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

2. Which of these types of land would you like to see preserved? Rank all in order of importance, 1 being the type of parcel you'd most like to see preserved down to 9:

- ☐ corridors along streams, rivers, & ponds
- ☐ passive recreation areas (hiking, cross country skiing)
- ☐ active recreation (fields, playgrounds, etc)
- ☐ natural areas for wildlife

- ☐ farmland
 - ☐ freshwater wetlands
 - ☐ beach
 - ☐ historic areas
 - ☐ other (*please be specific*)
-

3. How important is it to preserve or protect:

	Very Important	Neutral	Not at all Important
a. Historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Open spaces for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Open spaces for conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. How important is it to address:

	Very Important	Neutral	Not at all Important
a. Destruction of the town's character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Disappearing wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Lack of adequate recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Lack of adequate preserved open space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Which of the following types of facilities are used by you and your family?

(check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> soccer fields | <input type="checkbox"/> hiking/skiing trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baseball/ softball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> horse trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parks | <input type="checkbox"/> open, passive recreation space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tennis courts | <input type="checkbox"/> school playgrounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> fishing areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salisbury Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> snowmobile/ motorbike trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Salisbury State Reservation | <input type="checkbox"/> beach access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard Park |

6. Which of the following facilities/ programs would you like to see added or enlarged?

(check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> soccer fields | <input type="checkbox"/> hiking/skiing trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baseball/ softball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> horse trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> neighborhood parks | <input type="checkbox"/> open, passive recreation space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> picnic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> tennis courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> basketball courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> beach access | <input type="checkbox"/> skating rink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fishing pier/areas/water access | <input type="checkbox"/> paved bike/rollerblade paths |
| <input type="checkbox"/> swimming areas | <input type="checkbox"/> sports club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> skateboard areas | <input type="checkbox"/> snowmobile trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public boat ramp | <input type="checkbox"/> adult recreation program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teen summer program | <input type="checkbox"/> youth summer recreation program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (be specific) _____ | |

7. For the purpose of developing new recreation areas or preservation of open space, would you...

	Yes	No
a. Allow the purchase of your land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Donate your land or a portion thereof?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Allow the purchase of a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Donate a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Allow the purchase of recreational easements on your land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Donate recreational easements on your land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Are you concerned about the growth rate of the Town? (*please explain*)

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. What residential growth policy do you favor for the Town? (Please choose one).

- ☐ no new development
- ☐ no new development until Master Plan is completed
- ☐ new development in existing developed areas only
- ☐ new development in undeveloped areas
- ☐ restricted development using zoning and other regulatory tools (i.e. cluster developments, conservation incentives, special permits)
- ☐ no changes in current policy

10. Are you satisfied with...

Yes No

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Recreational facilities for children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Recreational facilities for adults | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. General condition of these facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other _____ | | |

11. What Town actions do you favor to preserve open space? (*check all that apply*)

- ☐ receipt of conservation easements
- ☐ outright purchase
- ☐ zoning for open space conservation
- ☐ mandatory dedication of open space by developers
- ☐ educate citizens about conservation options
- ☐ obtain State grants to allow Town to purchase land
- ☐ involve State for purchase
- ☐ involve private conservation organizations (e.g. Essex County Greenbelt)
- ☐ formation of land bank funded by a percentage (1%-3%) of value of each real estate transaction (e.g. Cape Cod Land Bank)

12. Please list any specific parcels of land in Salisbury that you think could be used for recreation facilities, i.e. ballfields, tennis courts, etc. (Please include address and/or parcel map and lot number)

13. Please list any specific parcels of land in Salisbury that you think are of conservation interest. (Please include address and/or parcel map and lot number)

14. What areas of Salisbury do you like to show out-of-town guests?

15. Where do you live in Salisbury?

☐ Salisbury Square

☐ Beach

☐ Plains

☐ Rings Island

☐ _____

16. Who is in your household?

of adults (18-64) _____

of seniors (65+) _____

of young children (0-6) _____

of children (7-12) _____

of teens (13-17) _____

of persons with special needs _____

17. How long have you been a resident?

☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ Over 20 years

18. Why do you live in Salisbury? (*check all that apply*)

☐ Rural Atmosphere ☐ Work/Commute ☐ Housing ☐ Schools

☐ Grew up here & stayed ☐ Family & friends ☐ Access to Recreational Activities

☐ _____

19. Do you have any other information or thoughts that you would like considered in the planning process?

Thank you for your help!!

Do you have an interest in participating in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan? It should be a short-term commitment. If you would like to be involved, please contact Leah Hill in the Planning Office, 978-463-2266 or lhill@salisburyma.gov

☐ Yes

☐ No

Appendix F: ADA/Self Evaluation

**Town of Salisbury
Handicapped Accessibility Report
504 Self Evaluation**



504 Handicapped Accessibility Self Evaluation

Introduction

The Town of Salisbury's original 504 Self Evaluation was produced in June 1999. It was completed after an inspection of public buildings and facilities by the Community Development Department's Rehabilitation Specialist to determine compliance levels with 521 CMR, the Rules and Regulations of the Architectural Access Board. At that time, a member of Salisbury's handicapped community who was the Housing Authority Commissioner, helped draft the recommendations. Using these recommendations, a Transition Plan was developed incorporating proposed improvements with a timeline for achieving accessibility for each public building and facility.

The CDBG Program Manager did a re-inspection in May of 2002 with assistance from the Community Advocacy Liaison from the Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. out of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The technical expertise was requested to allow for a more thorough and unbiased analysis. During the re-inspection, the accessibility issues from the 1999 inspection were reviewed and more specific barriers to accessibility were documented. It was noted that several of the earlier recommendations had been implemented. Several more still need to be addressed.

The CDBG Program Manager did telephone interviews in March of 2006 with the responsible party for each location (see names below 2006 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility) to see what, if any, progress had been made since 2002. The most significant achievement is that Town Hall is now fully accessible. Although, there has been improvement since 2002 more still needs to be done (see 2006 Transition Plan.)

The Town of Salisbury is committed to improving access to its public buildings and facilities for persons with disabilities. The 504 Self Evaluation contains a Transition Plan, which details both the barriers to accessibility and the means to eliminate them.

The Town is currently applying for funding to complete the work on the Hilton Senior Center mentioned in this report.

LIONS PARK

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
Partial		No	N/A	No	

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

Barriers to Exterior Accessibility:

1. Parking lot has no designated handicapped parking space(s).
2. No handicapped accessible walkway leading to Baseball fields or playgrounds. All facilities shall be accessible and shall be on an accessible route that is paved or hard packed, at least 4 feet wide. If curb cuts are provided, they shall comply with 521 CMR21 CURB CUTS.
3. Tot lot area needs to be leveled for wheel chair accessibility.
4. Cement tables behind restrooms are not accessible for wheel chair. At least 5% of tables shall be accessible and shall comply with 521 CMR19.5.2.
5. Restrooms need Braille signs for the blind.

Part Two: 2002 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility

1. The Salisbury Department of Public Works still needs to designate the required handicapped parking space(s) by painting and signage.
2. All paths within the playground need to be made accessible.
3. Grading of tot lot was done FY 2000
4. Cement table area can be made accessible by extending the sidewalk leading to the restrooms.
5. Restroom signage is in place.

Part Three: 2006 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility (Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

1. Town ordered signage but has not been put up. Rest of work has not been funded.
2. Work has commenced – approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ done.
3. Work is 100% complete.
4. Work has not been done.
5. Work is 100% complete.

HILTON SENIOR CENTER

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
X		No	No		

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

1. Front door closer shall be adjusted such that the sweep period of the closer, from an open position, shall take at least six seconds to close.
2. The minimum space between two hinged or pivoted doors in series shall be at least 48" plus the width of any door swinging into the space. Doors in series shall swing either in the same direction or away from space between the doors. The construction of the current vestibule does not allow 48 inches beyond the width of the door swing.
3. Parking lot should be regraded and paved. Indicate specified handicapped parking spaces, at least 2.
4. (Update per 2002 Evaluation) In the interior of the building the following observations were made:
 - a. The door knobs are not compliant
 - b. There are several concerns with the restrooms including:

(Update per 2002 Evaluation) In the interior of the building the following observations were made: The signage needs to be on the door, not on the side

The urinal is 23" high, needs to be 17"

The mirror needs to be 40" high to the glass
The paper towel dispenser is 50.5" high, needs to be 42"
The stall door needs a spring hinge
The toilet paper is 26.5" high, needs to be 24"
There needs to be a grab bar behind the toilet
The flush handle needs to be on the other side

Part 2: 2002 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility

1. Done
2. Done
3. A van accessible sign is present, but also needs the standard handicap sign underneath it to meet code.

4. Arrangements will be made these findings with the Council on Aging and develop a strategy for resolving them

Part Three: 2006 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility
(Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

1. Done
2. Done
3. Town has additional sign needs to be put up -plans for grant will add new handicapped accessible section with 2 new designated spaces

The Town received a FY2005 CDBG CDF-1 grant and the following activities will be done:

- a. A 20' x 62' addition will be constructed. The addition will include: A medical room to give seniors privacy when seeing doctors and nurses; a private office for the Council on Aging; a classroom for new arts and crafts, sewing, knitting, scrap booking and other classes; and storage areas,
- b. Rehabilitation of the existing bathrooms making them handicapped accessible,
- c. Additional of a handicapped accessible egress,
- d. Installation of a sprinkler system, and
- e. 25 additional parking spaces.

BEACH BASEBALL FIELD

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
	X	No	No	No	No

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

1. Needs to regraded and paved, indicate specific handicapped parking spaces, at least two.

Part 2: 2002 Transition Plans for Achieving Accessibility

The Department of Public Works is currently working with the Little League Organization on enlarging the ball field and parking facilities.

Part Three: 2006 Self Evaluation

(Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

- 1. The project is in process.**

BEACH PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
Yes		No	No	Yes	Yes

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

1. Suggested putting handicapped parking space(s) outside of rest room.
2. (Updated per 2002 Evaluation) During a survey of the men's bathroom it was noted that several interior changes are necessary including:

Signage needs to be in Braille 5' foot from the floor
The handicap stall is too small in length and width
Audio/visual fire alarms need to be in the bathrooms.
Hand dryer is 48" high, needs to be 42"
Paper towel dispenser is 50" high, needs to be 42"
Mirror is 47" high, needs to be 40" to the bottom of the glass, not the frame.
Urinals are 21.5" high; at least one needs to be 17"
The flusher handle is on the wrong side of the toilet seat
There needs to be a grab bar on the backside of the toilet
The door to the stall needs a self-closing mechanism

Part 2: 2002 Transition Plans for Achieving Accessibility

1. The Department of Public Works can designate one van accessible handicap parking (restroom only) spot on the south side of the building. The Department has requested the money for this work in their FY2003 Budget.
2. This matter will be addressed in a meeting with the DPW director and the Parks and Recreation Committee to determine cost and a timetable for addressing these needs.

Part Three: 2006 Self Evaluation (Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

1. 100% Complete
2. This is not a Town-owned building. The urinals were removed. The Town is considering tearing it down.

BEACH CENTER AREA

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
Mostly		No	No	Mostly	

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

1. Pay phone doesn't meet height requirements.
2. Tables at Center and Picnic tables are not in compliance
3. Town parking lot sufficient.
4. Street parking around center sufficient.

Part 2: 2002 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility

1. Contact can be made with the owner of the pay phones to have one installed at the right height.
If a third phone is added to the east end of Broadway, it will need to be TDD equipped.
2. Although seven new picnic benches were installed, none of them are handicap accessible.

Part Three: 2006 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility

(Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

1. Not done but with change of zoning improvements will follow.
2. Of the seven picnic tables installed 2 have no bench surrounding one section to accommodate a wheelchair.

MEMORIAL PARK AT SQUARE

Accessible	Not Accessible	Vision Impaired	Hearing Impaired	Mobility Impaired	Seniors
Partial	Partial	No	N/A	No	No

Part 1: 1999 Evaluation

- 1. The sidewalk in the park is not wide enough and therefore is not handicapped accessible. All facilities (information booth, veteran's memorials) shall be accessible and shall be on an accessible route that is paved or hard packed, at least 4 feet wide. If curb cuts are provided, they shall comply with 521 CMR21 CURB CUTS.**
- 2. The water bubbler is not accessible for persons in wheel chair.**

1. Curb cuts and sidewalk circling the park in front of the Town Library are not handicapped accessible.

Part 2: 2002 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility

1. The information booth is not located along a sidewalk and therefore not considered accessible. The flagpole also needs a sidewalk around it.
2. The water fountain has a 4" step 21" away from the fountain itself. If a ramp were made to accommodate the step, one side of the fountain's platform would have to be enlarged to allow for 30" of clear space to allow a person in a wheelchair to make a parallel approach to the fountain.
3. Done
4. A large amount of sand is accumulating in the curb cuts surrounding the park, which suggests that the water is pooling there, and not draining away.

Part Three: 2006 Transition Plan for Achieving Accessibility (Spoke to Don Levesque, DPW Director)

1. Not Done
2. Not Done.

3. Done.
4. Zoning changes to the Village Center at Salisbury Square will bring about improvements.

Appendix G: Newspaper Clippings

1. Survey article

SECTION 11: REFERENCES

Reports, Studies, Websites and other Written Resources

Town of Salisbury Open Space & Recreation Plan – May 1986

About the Watershed-Merrimack River Watershed Council, Inc.
<http://www.merrimack.org/aboutwatershed/geography.htm>

Town of Salisbury, MA <http://www.salisburyma.gov/hist.html>

1990 & 2000 U.S. Census

MISER Middle Series Population Projections

The Warren Group

Salisbury Zoning By-Laws, 2005, table amended 5/16/05

Vernal Pool Certification <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/nhvernalcert.htm>

<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/statusus.htm>

www.salisbury-ma.com/PWParkRecreation.html

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/towns.htm#salisbury>, last updated 02/07/2006

Mammals List of Massachusetts www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfwmam.htm

Salisbury Baseball-Softball League <http://www.salisburymass.com/>

Stevens, Pamela Mutch, 2000. Arcadia Publishing, S.C.. Images of America: Salisbury Beach

"Salisbury Reconnaissance Report: Essex County Landscape Inventory", May 2005. Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation & Essex National Heritage Commission.

NRPA- Mertes & Hall, 1996 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines

ACEC Program-<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/acecProgram.htm>

MHS Reconnaissance Survey, 1985

Overweight and Obesity: Childhood Overweight: Defining Overweight-Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/childhood/defining.htm>

Overweight and Obesity: Childhood Overweight: Overweight Prevalence-Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/childhood/prevalence.htm>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/glossary.htm#brow>

Wetlands Restoration Program-Great Marsh Coastal Restoration Plan-
http://www.mass.gov/czm/wrp/planning_pages/gmpln/introduction.htm

Woods Hole Research Center- http://www.whrc.org/capecod/critical_habitats/Barrier_Beaches.htm

Correspondence/ Personal Communication

Assessors Offices in Merrimack Valley

Town of Salisbury, Assessors Office Data

WasteWater Treatment Plant, Jeff Ingalls

Ray Pike, Harbormaster

Michelle Rowden, Conservation Agent
Horace Baxter, Health Agent

Robert Straubel, Sewer Commission

Kathy Waelter, DPW, 4/3/06

Lisa Berry Engler, ACEC Coastal Coordinator, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Commonwealth of Massachusetts,